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THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

Free

On The Trail of Harmen Verbrugge And The Westside Center

Dan Leahy

I drive by a print shop called Graphia on Division every morning on my way to work. Last December he put an old poster in his shop window with one word on top of it.

REMEMBER?

War is not healthy for Children and Other Living Things.

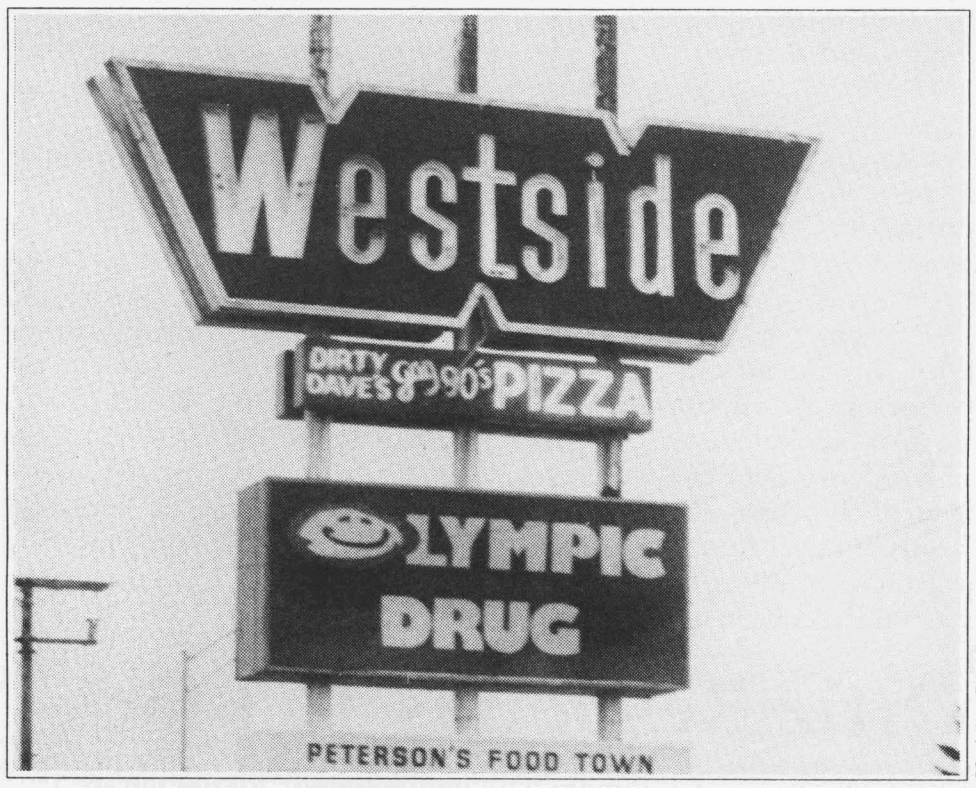
Yes, I remembered.

The poster was from the anti-Vietnam war days. A group called "Another Mother for Peace" made it popular. My wife and I used it once as a Christmas card back in 1968 and sent shock waves through our large, extended family in Eastern Washington.

I liked the idea that a small business could put up such a sign and not have to worry about going out of business. I liked my neighbors who kept it there. I liked my kids walking by it. I liked driving by it - it made me pay attention when I saw another sign.

It was on the window of Peterson's Shoprite. It said come to a meeting at Garfield School on Wednesday December 4th to talk about saving the Westside Shopping Center.

I was glad to see that sign. I'd been hearing things and noticing stuff for months, but, until that sign, no one had asked me to stop and do something about it.



Kendra Jennings

I mean, why did At Home with Books move across Division? Why is Olympic Drug closing? Is Peterson's being replaced by an Albertson's? Is the City Council really going to let a Jack in the Box be built at Harrison and Division? Is the Asterisk closing when their lease expires at the end of December? Why did the Graphia owner say he would never sign another lease with this landlord?

There were about 50 people at the Garfield meeting December 4th and just about as many questions. Here's some answers.

Lou Vogel of At Home with Books said she was forced out by the new landlord who raised her rent twice, presented her with a 75 page new lease agreement calling such things as a $97/month "maul" fee and the right to move her store anywhere within the Center with a two month notice.

Larry Peterson of Shoprite said he had signed a new five year lease with the landlord, but the landlord retained an option to buy out Peterson's within the first two years of the lease. It is this purchase option provision combined with the Olympic Drug vacancy and the landlord's inquiries about property behind Shoprite (across Garfield) that has fueled speculation about a giant car magnet such as Albertsons.

Dave Baxter of Rainy Day said, yes, Foodmaker Inc of San Diego had filed an application with the City Council to build a Jack in the Box on the northwest corner of Harrison and Division. The City Council determined that such a development was of "nonsignificance" and therefore no EIS study (Environmental Impact Statement) was required.

Apparently the City Council only notifies property owners within 300 feet of such an intended use. Since neither Dave nor the other tenants own property within that 300 ft, they received no notice of appeal rights to this determination of "non-significance."

There was one question, however, we didn't get a clear answer to. Who is this landlord, what's his plan for our neighborhood business center and who are his allies?

Harmen Verbrugge is the son of Magdalemus Verbrugge of LaJolla, California. Magdalemus bought most of the Westside Center from Capital Partners in July, 1987, for $3.2 million.

Harmen controls the Center through his Treco Holding corporation based in Nanoose Bay, twenty-five miles north of Nanaimo, British Columbia and through Treco Development, a Washington state corporation. William R. Friedhoff, Jr., an attorney with the law firm of Ryan, Swanson and Cleveland of Seattle has served as his corporations registered agent, and now his law firm, RSC Corporation, serves in that capacity. Harmen is President, Secretary, Treasurer and sole Director of Treco Development.

It is not surprising that Harmen has Mr. Friedhoff as his counsel. Mr. Friedhoff specializes in "Real Estate, Business, Bankruptcy." Harmen's most recent "development" landed in Federal Bankruptcy court in Tacoma and Mr. Friedhoff was the registered agent for Harmen's now dissolved corporation.

Harmen, then as President of Nomen Development, and Robert Madiuk of Premier Projects borrowed $15.6 million from the National Bank of Canada, using the name Tacoma Place Associates (TPA). TPA bought land from Mike Healy and "developed" Tacoma Place (Home Club, etc) - the mall on the east side of I-5 just south of the Tacoma Mall.

However on February 9, 1990, creditors of TPA forced Harmen and his partners into filing an involuntary Chapter 7 bankruptcy in Federal Court in Tacoma.

A spokesman for RH Construction in Portland, one of Harmen's creditors, says their company lost a million dollars because TPA didn't fulfill its contract obligations. The original land owner for Tacoma Place, Mike Healy, had to take back the land in order to try and recover what he says is owed him and a Bankruptcy Trustee is still working on settlements.

Meanwhile, on July 23, 1990, our Secretary of State dissolved Harmen's Nomen Corporation for failure to file office and renew his license and he moved on his father's Olympia Westside property through his Treco Corporation.

His plan is quite simple. Create empty space by driving local businesses out with rent increases and maintaining vacancies. Attract an Albertsons with his empty space, his asphalt, and his true bona fide -- a Jack in the Box that will guarantee traffic and shoppers. File bankruptcy and go further south if it doesn't work out.

Harmen's plans were sailing along until Diane Hogland, as Friends of the Westside Center,

(continued back page)

Harmen is President, Secretary, Treasurer and sole Director of Treco Development. . . . Harmen's most recent "development" landed in Federal Bankruptcy court in Tacoma

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Letters

Patching Up The Left

Dear Editors:

I enjoyed reading Sylvia Smith's critique of Matt Love's anti-abortion column (letters, November, 1991 issue). It's always nice to see people debating an issue, airing their ideas, having a little fun.

But for some reason I am having trouble forgetting her last paragraph in which she apparently accuses Love of having deserted the political left. His sin? Criticizing pro-choice supporters! For God's sake Sylvia, why is it necessary to tow the party line 100% or else be cast forever into the outer darkness?

Back in the good old days, when I was knee high to a grass hopper and the earth's crust was still cooling, people on the left prided themselves on their ability to tolerate a wide range of diverse viewpoints. Free thinking was championed, and "absolutists" were frowned upon. dogmatists were considered boring, and it was very uncool to be boring. People were supposed "to do their own thing", I add, always eager for the opportunity to spew forth one more mind numbing cliche.

These days, the tattered remnants of the left are out-numbered on the order of ten to one, with the situation worsening day by day. Is it really necessary to aid our extremely powerful opposition by trying to force one another out of the fold? What ever happened to brothers and sisters working together in a spirit of mutual love and respect?

Sincerely, Charlie Calvert

Author's response: I sincerely appreciate and welcome your comments. I agree, there does need to be larger discussion on the Left and I welcome further dialogue on the Reproductive Rights Issue. Unfortunately, I do not think that happened in Mr. Love's column. His words were full of venom, calling those who support the freedom of women to control their own bodies "deathers".

As to my last paragraph, I believe I merely answered the question that *he* raised to show his separation from the Left and its supposed baseness.

Respectfully, S. Smith

Racism Or Freedom Of Expression

Dear Works In Progress Editors:

It is with great disappointment and anger that I note your decision to "apologize" for the graphic that ran in your November issue along with the article on the Mitsubishi boycott. Instead of standing by your artist and your decision to publish the illustration, as an honorable paper would, you chose to knuckle under to a few people who had their Feelings Hurt. You massaged a few egos, but in doing so you sold out the ideals of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

This is the last issue of your paper I shall read, and this saddens me. You report on subjects that need addressing, and do it in a very educational way. I agree with most of your goals. However, as a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, I simply cannot tolerate what I feel will amount to a policy of censorship and suppression of unpopular political views.

Freedom is not a one-way street. You, of all people, should be conscious of this, because your paper will undoubtedly be one of the first to go if the current administration ever acquires the power to suppress political opinions with which they disagree.

Why, then, do you choose to employ the same tactic here, in deference to the faddish wave of "political correctness" that is sweeping across the nation?

I have seen the illustration in question, and I have a very hard time believing that it was drawn with any sort of malicious racist intent; from where I'm standing this whole brouhaha appears to have sprung from a few overactive imaginations. But I do not begrudge anyone his or her opinion.

It is good, very good, for you to print letters and commentaries disagreeing with your decision to publish this illustration. These people are entitled to their views, and deserve to be heard, so that we may all endeavor to learn from one another. Such is the essence of civilized discourse. But to flat-out refuse to stand by your editorial judgement, and in doing so implicitly suggest that no similar opinions would be allowed in your paper in the future - - well, I would never have guessed that you could be so spineless.

What shall be your procedure from now on? Shall you show every piece of copy, every picture, every illustration you are considering running to a representative from each aggrieved group from Earth's history, to make sure their Feelings Don't Get Hurt in even the slightest degree? It's a good way to save on printing costs, because I assure you that if you purge everything controversial you will have a very thin paper.

Works In Progress exists to make waves. Your whole reason for existence is to disturb the status quo. I find it interesting, therefore, and more than a little hypocritical, that you will not allow your own status quo to be disturbed.

Dennis Ginoza, in his letter, says "With this cartoon, you ally yourself with the KKK, skinheads, and the extreme right." I agree with the gentleman that you have allied yourself with the right wing; however, as I see it, you have done this by adopting the tactics of Jerry Falwell, Donald Wildmon, and Jesse Helms: the willful censorship of ideas you do not happen to like. That, ladies and gentlemen, is disgusting. I urge you to retract your ill-considered apology and state for the record that, while you believe in the basic human rights of all people and cultures, you also stand strongly behind freedom of expression and the First Amendment, and that you will not allow the PC complaints of a few to distract you from your pursuit of those freedoms.

P.H. Henry

Ortiz Responds To Black

Dear Editors:

If unions are so devilishly pro-capitalist as Bob Black in his letter to WIP (12-91) claims, why are North American workers still harassed, fired, and even murdered for trying to unionize? During the Reagan-Bush era, union busting has become a multi-billion dollar industry. Mexican longshoremen and auto workers have recently been jailed and shot for attempting to organize independent unions.

Mr. Black finds workers' struggles to be "laughable." Still, he needs to clarify his politics: does he support the Reagan-Bush-Mulroney-Salinas offensive against workers or does he stand for working class people's attempts to achieve democracy on their own terms?

Mr. Black accuses me in his letter of simply promoting trade unionism, yet three out of the five working-class coalitions I discussed were *not* traditional trade unions. My point is that we should support progressive working-class coalitions to the fullest extent possible.

We should also be aware that workers are losing rights and even their lives because of the offensive against unions and the occupational and health standards unions fight for. The deaths of twenty-five workers in the non-union Imperial Foods fire shows this. Unionized poultry factories have higher occupational and safety regulations enforced by union contracts. These include regular fire drills, inspections by OSHA officials, and safety equipment. If these standards had been in place at Imperial Foods, twenty-five deaths would have been prevented.

In addition, five workers have lost their lives at the Ravenswood Aluminum factory in West Virginia since the union was locked out over a year ago. Plant officials have refused to " allow OSHA inspectors into the plant."

Mr. Black's anti-union rhetoric therefore serves the interests of employers that desire a free reign over workers, no matter what the costs to human life and the environment.

Mr. Black's desire to sell his new book, which will teach workers like myself how to act, leads him to misrepresent my November WIP article as "fashionable multi-cultural," and to claim that my article contained "apocryphal" material. I could change my surname and present articles on monocultural movements and still I expect Mr. Black wouldn't be satisfied. He is looking to sell his book, and that is understandable. However, I suggest that he get his facts straight before he slanders another person in print.

Paul Ortiz

Racism Supports Capitalist System

Works in Progress:

The only problem with the samurai incident is to portray the samurai as the bad guy. The samurai in the old days of eastern feudalism was an honorable position similar to the knight in the west.

There is one other thing overlooked when it comes to racism. Capitalists, whether in Japan, USA, or black capitalists in Africa mean only one thing. That is to gain the most profit for the least expense, no matter who may be harmed. For the races to fight each other pleases Capitalism, for the capitalist knows when they fight each other they are not fighting him, thus weakening workers' power.

Only when capitalists are replaced by a system of socialist cooperation and worker control by all those who do useful work will racism be dead forever, for such a system could not afford racism.

Yours truly, Milton Poulos

Dear WIP staff:

I've enjoyed being a reader of *Works In Progress* for over a year. It is both a well researched and thoughtful journalism and gives credence to the power of small and free press.

I am proud to contribute to it.

Sincerely, Ron Austin

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An Open Letter To The Community

As a long term *Works in Progress* editorial board member, and current co-coordinator of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, I am greatly concerned about the condition of both our paper and organization. The paper, despite all good intentions, appears to be locked in a web of male, Eurocentric voices - in the form of columnists - guaranteed space each month regardless of the value of the message or the quality of the writing. The Rainbow has not achieved its goal of expanding membership outside of its small circle of regulars who attend monthly meetings. I'm fearful that we have entered an abyss of entropy - chugging along - but never really getting anywhere.

I question the wisdom of continuing with monthly columns in Works in Progress. Being both a writer and former columnist, I can attest to the sense of ego gratification that attention to one's work can provide. To garner satisfaction out of having your work appreciated is certainly valid - indeed, it is an integral component of the human experience - but somewhere down the line, WIP has replaced its community outreach focus with reserved pages for the same group of men each month. Some of these columns have been interesting, but I wonder how long can we continue to read about the same topics, from the same people, on the same pages?

I believe that writing for the sake of ego has become the prevailing motivator to contribute and that the tone of the paper has significantly changed. Replacing the openness of community based articles, columns have become sounding boards for those who claim expertise in any [perhaps all?] subjects, whether it be capitalism, communism, taxes, or angry, pedantic critiques of leftist activity, ideology or culture.

Losing Jesse Jackson as a viable presidential candidate has meant an enormous drop in active membership for the Rainbow Coalition. I have argued, and continue to believe, that in order for the Rainbow to thrive, we must transcend Jackson and work on our own social vision. That vision must encompass reprioritizing where we invest of resources, how we protect our Mother Earth, and how we can build a compassionate, equitable and just society. Founding Rainbow members and previous co-coordinators don't even participate anymore. What is happening to our sense of and commitment to community? Where are people's social consciousness and activism? Has the Rainbow outlived its usefulness? Has it become guilty of being a feel good exclusive club for the small circle who participate much in the same vein as the elitism expressed by "experts" in the WIP columns each month?

I would like to hear from the community on these subjects. I propose that the Rainbow expand its mission and outreach to a wide scope of organizations, communities and individuals interested in working together in order to build a true coalition. Regarding the paper, I'd like to see the notion of a monthly "column" with cutesy little logos and titles eliminated and, instead, have the editorial board do active outreach of articles that represent a multi-cultural range of voices and ideas. Does this mean that I think those who have written regularly should stop? Not at all. I believe that anyone who has something to say, should put it down on paper and let it enter the selection process with any other articles submitted for that issue. While it doesn't guarantee publication, it sure seems a heckuva lot more fair than the current monthly space reserved for the exclusive heterosexual white boys club.

Please write to us and let us know what you think. If you do not contribute, then there is no point in having this debate, because one thing's for certain: the regular columnists are reliable for turning monthly pieces like clockwork and if we have nothing else to print, the paper will remain status quo by default.

Sincerely,
Tom Freeman, TCRC Co-Coordinator and WIP Board Member

Abortion is Capitulation to Injustice

Dear Editors,

In the November '91 issue, Sylvia Smith defends abortion on the grounds that the alternative is deadly illegal abortion. This is not so; no one has to have an abortion, especially a dangerous illegal one. A far healthier alternative is continuing the pregnancy, and 1700 crisis pregnancy centers around the country offer all the housing and help they can, for free. Even though illegal abortion is not as dangerous as is often assumed (the death toll in the last year before Roe v Wade was 39, not 10,000), its dangers are so familiar that few women would choose it; in Louisiana, only 4% of women said they would have an illegal abortion. If women are responsible for their health care decisions, then having an illegal abortion is a stupid decision--like deciding to drive drunk. No one is forcing them to do it.

Smith says that women in this society are hated, and then implies that abortion is therefore necessary. What other hated group has to have an operation to achieve equality? Does abortion really help us--or is it just easier to change women's bodies than to change society? Abortion is capitulation to injustice, whereby we sacrifice our own sons' and daughters' bodies in return for the right to continue our lives. We fit right back in and exploitative bosses and sexually exploitative men can go on as before, undisturbed by our children. *Abortion solves nothing*, it just keeps us quiet. (Except for those midnight tears.)

It is not a matter of being "pro-choice" and making no judgement on the decision. That assumes that the alternatives are equal--whether abortion occurs or not doesn't matter. This is the premise slaveholders tried to sell--it's none of your business whether I own slaves, you don't have to own any if you don't believe in it, just go away and leave me alone. But the premise was false; slaveholding simply was wrong, and not something folks of conscience could ignore. America is deeply conflicted on abortion, because we cannot deny that it is violence; nearly every abortion is a dismemberment, and the remainder are equally grisly. We may not be sure that the unborn is a person, but we know that if we saw this being done to a kitten we would be horrified. And then again--what if it *is* a person? The possibility is so ghastly that the mind recoils. Twenty-five million dead. How could we have enshrined this at the very basis of our philosophy? Can we be absolutely certain that he or she is *not* a person? How dare we take the chance?

No just society can be built on a foundation of bloodshed. It is imperative that we *stop* having abortions, that we refuse to choose violence against our own offspring, no matter what the law says. Yes, continuing a pregnancy can be difficult, but we cannot take that out in violence on someone smaller. Our foremothers were too courageous to be betrayed in such a way. With the aid of our sisters, we can make it through to do perhaps the noblest deed of our lives: taking a stand against injustice, defending the helpless from violence, and insisting that change take place in society, not in our bodies.

For more information, contact: Feminists for Life of America, 811 E. 47th Street, Kansas City, MO 64110.

For women,
Frederica Mathewes-Green
Ellicott City, MD

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Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the WIP Editorial Board and are solely those of the authors.

Keep those letters and cards coming. Correspondence and articles are always welcome. If possible submit articles on disk (WordPerfect). WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions; so for editing purposes please enclose your phone number. Send submissions to Works in Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507.

"If pizza is an art
To Mamas has the brushes"
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"There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war."
Martin Luther King, Jr

Please remember to attend the
Martin Luther King, Jr Day Celebration
(Sponsored and organized by the Urban League)
January 20th at Noon in the Washington Center for the Performing Arts
Jesse Wineberry - Main Speaker

This advertisement payed for by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

Celebrating the Injustices of Wars

Alexander Cockburn

The Hostage Thing

At any given time there are plenty of hostages somewhere in the world, but America's obsession with them began on November 4, 1979. On that day Iranian students took over the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, imprisoning the diplomatic staff.

There was a torrent of moralizing here about Islamic beastliness and contravention of civilized norms, but the motives for the hostage taking were coherent and arose in response to American actions. Jimmy Carter had just admitted a cherished U.S. ally— the Shah of Iran— to the United States. Simultaneously, the Carter Administration was doing everything in its power to destabilize and, if possible, overthrow the Khomeini government that had replaced the Shah.

In the eyes of the perpetrators and their sympathizers, the hostage taking in Teheran was a successful tactic, leading directly to the defeat of Carter in 1980 and the inauguration of the Reagan team, which swiftly sanctioned arms shipments via Israel, which had already been supplying Iran.

In early 1982 Reagan's Secretary of State, Alexander Haig, gave an explicit go-ahead to Israel's invasion of Lebanon, which followed in June of that year. The ensuing carnage claimed many thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian lives. A year later, as Israel began to fall back behind a southern perimeter of Lebanese territory held by its Lebanese proxies, Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert MacFarlane, urged an enhanced American presence.

By late 1983 U.S. warships including the battleship New Jersey were shelling Druse villages behind Beirut. This exhibition of American partiality had two immediate effects. One was the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks at Beirut airport, causing the death of 241 Marines. The second was the kidnappings, which began in the following year.

Deeds have consequences, and those who sermonize about the vileness of kidnapping and kindred terrorism conveniently ignore the other side of the moral equation. The men who held Terry Anderson and the others in chains and darkness for years on end behaved barbarously. But to their captives they pointed to the barbarity of Israel, whose soldiers or proxies had kidnapped hundreds and held them in the dungeons and torture boxes of Khiam, and which by the late 1980s had seized and held without charge thousands upon thousands of Palestinians.

People will fight with the weapons available to them. Bud MacFarlane sent in the Marines and the New Jersey. The Hezbollah responded with kidnapping. There never was any moral symmetry here. Between them, Israel and the United States held an overwhelming lead in the exercise of terror.

Forgotten Captives

The durance of Anderson and the other kidnap victims always had great vividness. As is proper, they weren't forgotten. But somehow the resonance of words like "kidnapping" and "hostage" diminishes when U.S. nationals are not the victims. On November 6 the United Nations staff union organized a Day of Solidarity with Detained U.N. Staff. ABC News correspondent Charles Glass—himself held in Beirut for two months before he managed to escape—was among some former U.N. kidnap victims on the podium. The union simultaneously released a list of U.N. staff members whose rights have been violated by member states of the U.N.

There are 155 names on the list, with violations of their rights including expulsion, detention, arrest, abduction and murder. By far the largest *tranche* of names are those of U.N. staff members seized—in effect, kidnapped—by Israel in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. In all, Israel has been responsible for the detention or arrest of eighty-seven, of whom forty-three are still being held. Almost all of them are Arab workers for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. (I exclude those U.N. members seized and sometimes murdered by Israel's proxy, the South Lebanon Army, because the U.N. list does not devote a discrete section to them.) The most abusive nation after Israel is Syria, which has at various times in either Syria or Syria-dominated Lebanon captured eighteen U.N. workers, of whom four either are still in prison or are dead.

Glass made a couple of strong points in his remarks during that Day of Solidarity. After linking the Beirut kidnappings to the U.S.-approved Israeli invasion of Lebanon, he pointed out that "there may be a lesson here for the United Nations. Perceptions of American foreign policy led to the kidnappings of Americans who had little or nothing to do with that policy in Lebanon." In the same manner, he continued, "perceptions of the United Nations, its policies and behavior in the Third World, may lead to the detention, kidnapping or killing of U.N. officials in some of the countries where they work."

The U.N., Glass said, "is appearing more and more to provide an international stamp of approval to American actions.... By leaving the command of the entire operation [against Iraq] in the hands of the United States, the United Nations abdicated its responsibilities.... The United States, with the support of a pliant United Nations Security Council, chose not to negotiate with Iraq."

The U.N., Glass said, "is appearing more and more to provide an international stamp of approval to American actions.... The United States, with the support of a pliant UN Security Council, chose not to negotiate with Iraq."

On this matter of Iraq we may reasonably ask, What is George Bush doing if not holding hostage millions of innocent Iraqis on the edge of starvation?

Anniversaries: Pearl Harbor, Vietnam

It all depends which bit of the moral seesaw you're sitting on. Amid the fiftieth anniversary of Pearl Harbor, the press has been full of discussion of whether Japan should apologize for the surprise attack. Rigorously excluded from this palavering has been any scrutiny of U.S. diplomatic and trade offensives against Japan, commencing with the London Naval Treaty of 1930 (denying Japan naval hegemony in its own waters) and culminating in the August 1, 1941, total U.S. embargo of all shipments of oil to Japan and the terms for Japanese trading subordination as laid down by the Americans in the Hull-Nomura talks. References to F.D.R.'s "moral embargo" of Japan for its war against China scarcely do justice to the less appetizing though predictable saga of national self-interest in the struggle for economic advantage in Asia. Also shunted swiftly out of sight has been the issue of U.S. guilt for dropping nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not to mention the thousand-plane air raid launched after the Japanese surrender had been announced, though not yet officially received. Secretary of War Henry Stimson recorded that it was "appalling that there had been no protest over the air strikes we were conducting against Japan which led to such extraordinarily heavy losses of life." He thought "there was something wrong with a country where no one questioned that."

But as with kidnapping, perceptions of war guilt depend on the angle of the moral seesaw. This season brings another anniversary, about which remarkably little has been heard. It's generally reckoned that U.S. intervention in Vietnam began thirty years ago, on December 11, 1961, when, on the orders of President Kennedy, two companies of thirty-six Shawnee helicopters and 370 officers and men of the US. Army, together with seven T-28 trainer combat planes, landed in Saigon.

In fact the United States had begun its unofficial intervention before the ink on the 1954 Geneva Accords was dry, but in 1961 the descent into the vortex began in earnest. In June of that year came the mission of Eugene Staley, president of the Stanford Research Institute. The Staley Plan as disclosed by the North Vietnamese in 1962 (though scanted by the "Pentagon Papers") called for "pacification" of South Vietnam within eighteen months, sabotage of the North, displacement of up to a million peasants into "strategic hamlets" and new "prosperity zones" in the Mekong Delta.

As Wilfred Burchett remarked of the Staley Plan in an essay, "The Receiving End," this was far from being "not much more than a piece of paper" (as it was described in the "Pentagon Papers") but was instead "the blueprint for a vast military campaign, very soon to be run by the United States itself, to try and herd the whole of South Vietnam's peasantry into 16,000 concentration camps disguised as 'strategic hamlets.' "

By October of 1961 Gen. Maxwell Taylor was cabling Kennedy an "Eyes Only" message from the Philippines outlining stepped-up U.S. military operations in South Vietnam, under the pretext of "flood relief." Hanoi reported the arrival of B-26 bombers and several hundred U.S. officers and troops at Bien Hoa Air Base on November 10. On November 11 came a memorandum to Kennedy detailing "US participation in the direction and control of GVN [South Vietnamese] military operations," while on the civilian side, U.S. personnel were being briefed for "insertion into the Governmental machinery of Vietnam." By January 1962, as Kennedy's counter-insurgency expert Roger Hilsman later regretfully noted in his book *To Move a Nation*, by a "tragic error" U.S. planes had bombed a Cambodian village. The error was duly rectified when the correct Vietnamese village was bombed, with severe loss of civilian life.

Eleven years later the United States withdrew, leaving behind three destroyed countries and about 2 million dead. Apologize? How can there be apologies when there is no concept of wrongdoing and when, to this day, the U.S. continues—against the angry urgings of its closest allies—to impose economic sanctions on Vietnam and effectively hold millions of Vietnamese hostage to America's enduring need for revenge. How lightly weigh the Hezbollah's kidnappings on scales such as these.

Other Anniversaries

Just as the United States was plunging into Vietnam the French were nearing the end of their ferocious effort to hang on to their colony Algeria. The Algerian independence movement, the F.L.N., called for a demonstration in Paris on October 17, 1961. I can remember reading about it at the time in the British press. The French police had attacked the marchers savagely, killing two. Such was the official number, though friends in Paris said it had been much worse.

Just how much worse has only now emerged. On October 20 *Le Monde* published an article by Anne Tristan (republished in the *Guardian Weekly* for November 3) describing the homicidal brutality of French riot police that left as many as 300 dead. The F.L.N. put the number of dead or disappeared at 327. The internal French police reckoning was 140.

(continued next page)

Jiggerypokery

by Al Zimmerman

Algerians were beaten to death, then thrown into the Seine. There were piles of bodies in the streets. Some 9,000 demonstrators were herded into two sports stadiums and forced to run gantlets of police. Parisians watched the proceedings with "perplexing impassiveness." Marthe, a pro-F.L.N. witness quoted by Tristan, heard someone on a cafe terrace say as he watched the hunt for Algerians, "Well, this evening at least they've put on a show for us!"

This indifference reminded me of the closed doors against which little French Jewish children vainly beat when they were about to be deported to death camps. The head of the Paris police at the time of the 1961 demonstration was Maurice Papon, now facing charges of having ordered the deportation of Jews from Bordeaux during World War II.

My colleague Scott Sherman checked contemporary reports of the Paris demonstration in some U.S. newspapers and magazines. Most gave a single-number casualty figure. *Newsweek's* Angus Deming said the police instigated the violence. *Time*, by contrast, blamed the "rabble" for starting things. Some *Time* journalists, cited by FAIR, are currently blaming the new Time Warner ownership for compromising the weekly's former integrity. If FAIR wants to start defending the traditions of old-style *Time* (Lucian calendar) I suggest they review the archives of this disgusting publication.

Tired of anniversaries? On December 7,1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor, commencing massacres that left at least 100,000 dead, as the former Portuguese colony was annexed as Indonesia's twenty-seventh province. On December 6,1975, President Ford and his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, were in Jakarta and raised no demur when apprised by their hosts of what was to happen the next day. Official U.S. reaction to the Indonesian killing of at least fifty Timorese demonstrators in Dili, the capital of East Timor, a few weeks ago has been demure to the point of inaudibility.

Oh, and between December 11 and 13, 1981, the U.S.-trained Atlacatl infantry battalion murdered about 1,000 men, women and children in the Salvadoran province of Morazan. The A.P. report in front of me continues to refer to it as an "alleged" massacre. "If I had a rocket launcher . . ."

Regina Costa pays for permission to reprint this column monthly.

Open Mike at Annual Meeting

Teresa Jennings

Citizens of Thurston County will speak on the current state of the county, state, and nation at the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition's Annual Meeting. Numerous topics, such as joblessness, environmental degradation, banking industry fiascoes, health care reform, and issues as yet unheard, are expected too be discussed at the meeting. Speakers will have an opportunity to tell their friends and neighbors what's on the mind, what worries them, and their solutions and hopes for the future. The event will be video recorded to create a tool to promote average citizens viewpoints to elected representatives and the media.

Organizations which speak to the peace-justice-jobs-environment agenda of the TCRC will be on hand to distribute literature and talk to people. Representatives from the presidential campaigns will be invited to hand out literature and make a short presentation to those still making candidate. This information is important to those still making the decision of who to support at their caucus, March 3.

The meeting will culminate with the election of co-coordinators, treasurer, and note-taker.

You are invited to **The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition Annual Meeting**

February 29, 1992
1:00 - 5:00 pm
First Christian Church
Seventh and Franklin

Teresa Jennings is note-taker and past co-coordinator of the TCRC.

Next Meeting :
Jan. 11 12:30 - 2:30
First Christian Church
7th and Franklin

AGENDA '92
THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Help the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition (TCRC) set its direction for the next year. Your participation on this survey will enable us to better work toward issues important to our community.
We very much appreciate your efforts.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ Work Phone_____

Precinct_____

❑ I or someone I know needs to register to vote. Please contact me.

I ❑ am ❑ am not a member of the T. C. Rainbow Coalition.

❑ I am a member of other politically active groups.

Name of Group(s):_____

_____

The following is a partial list of issues which the Rainbow has identified as areas that we can work on. Please put a check mark next to any issue which you have worked on and/or are interested in working on and list any additions:

❑ Racism
❑ Civil Liberties/Rights
❑ Sexism
❑ Voting Rights
❑ Lesbian/Gay Issues
❑ Veteran's Rights
❑ Reproductive Rights
❑ Senior Citizen Issues
❑ Labor Issues
❑ Housing/Homelessness
❑ Farmworkers
❑ Universal Health Care
❑ Palestinian Issues
❑ Family Support Issues
❑ Ethics--Government/Business
❑ Peace Issues
❑ Foreign Policy
❑ South Africa/Apartheid
❑ Elections '92
❑ Military Spending
❑ International Trade
❑ Environmental Issues
❑ Rainforest Protection
❑ Old Growth Forests
❑ Decriminalizing Drugs
❑ Capital Punishment
❑ Crime
❑ Drug/Alcohol Abuse
❑ Health Care Costs
❑ AIDS
❑ Animal Rights
❑ Public Transportation
❑ Other:

I want to participate in the following TCRC events (check all that apply):

❑ Marches
❑ Speakers
❑ Legislative Lobbying
❑ Registering Voters at Community Service & Job Service Centers
❑ Rallies
❑ Workshops
❑ Letter Writing Campaigns
❑ Doorbelling

❑ I am a Voter Registrar

Shall the TCRC put forward local candidates [City, County, State] in the '92 elections? ❑ yes ❑ no
If so, who?_____

What role shall the TCRC play in the upcoming selection process for presidential candidates in '92?

Shall the TCRC endorse presidential candidates? ❑ yes ❑ no
If so, are you interested in participating in the process? ❑ yes ❑ no

I want to work with the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition on the following:

❑ Finance/Fund-raising
❑ Issues/Policy Development
❑ Revising Rainbow Platform
❑ Membership Development
❑ Phone Tree
❑ Letter Writing Campaigns

❑ I'd like to attend the next meeting. Please call me with date/time/location.

I can do the following for the TCRC. (Check all that apply):

❑ Phoning
❑ Research
❑ Yard sign on my property
❑ Mailings
❑ Transportation to the polls
❑ Donate items for Fundraisers
❑ Bookkeeping
❑ Write articles
❑ Speakers' Bureau
❑ Other:

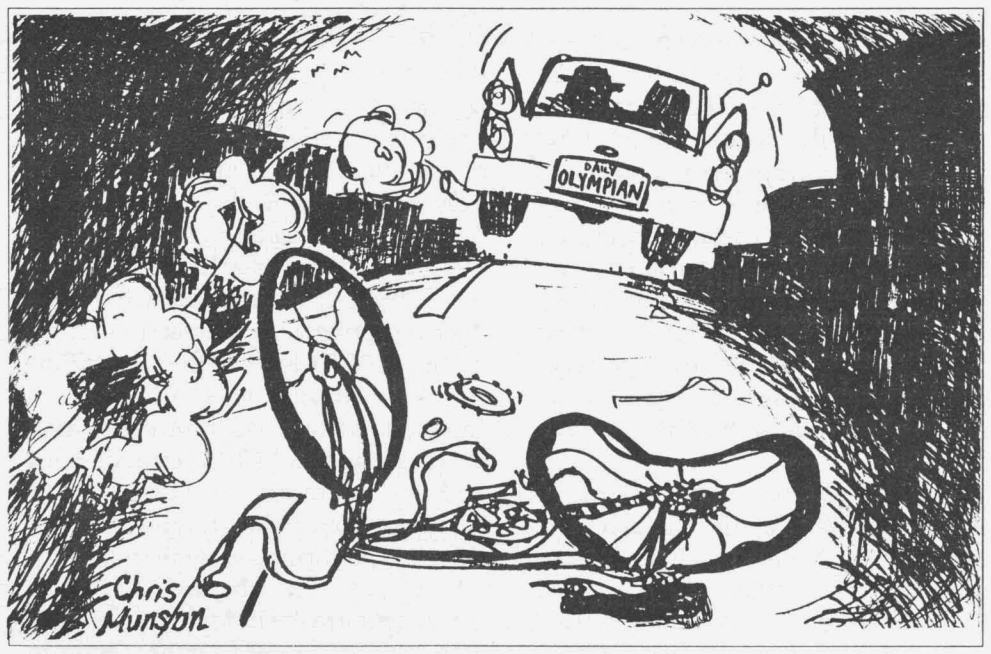
❑ I can keep people overnight occasionally. How many?_____

Enclosed is my donation for membership in the T.C. Rainbow Coalition:
❑ $25 ❑ $10 (senior/student/low-income) ❑ other_____

Please return this questionnaire by February 10, 1992 to:
Thurston County Rainbow Coalition Post Office Box 295
Olympia, Washington 98507-0295

This questionnaire was created by Teresa Jennings, TCRC secretary and Tom Freeman, TCRC co-coordinator.

Olympian Hypocrisy Pedals On



Todd Litman

November 26, 1991

For the last 2-1/2 years I've written a bicycling column for the *Olympian*, providing a bicyclist's perspective on a variety of issues. The column I've enclosed, concerning the purchase of bicycle storage lockers at South Puget Sound Community College, is the first to be censored, apparently because it contradicts the paper's view on the subject. You are welcome to publish this in *Works in Progress* if you consider it appropriate.

It's unfortunate that the paper [*Olympian*] failed to obtain a user's perspective on the difference between bicycle racks and covered, theft-proof bicycle lockers. In stories on November 19 and 21, and an editorial on November 24, the paper continually referred to the lockers as "racks". Bicycle racks and lockers are entirely different animals: racks are acceptable for short-term, fair weather use, but lockers are required for secure storage.

The November 24 editorial recommended buying cheap bicycle racks rather than bicycle lockers, calling the purchase "outrageous". Yet bicycle lockers cost approximately 1/10 the average cost of providing urban automobile parking, based on state surveys. Obviously, a bicyclist's perspective is lacking.

I've written a bicycling column for the **Olympian** *. . . is the first to be censored, apparently because it contradicts the paper's view on the subject.*

It's especially unfair to pick on bicycle facilities for students, many of whom have few other transportation options or money to spend replacing a damaged or stolen bicycle.

Our community has goals to encourage non-automotive transportation. The *Olympian*, in a September 3, 1991 editorial titled "WE ALL MUST BE WILLING TO FORGO AUTOS" stated, "All of us are going to have to change our driving habits. Businesses and governments are going to have to be creative in their thinking. Every option--from subsidized transit passes to allowing some employees to work at home--must be considered. More recently the paper ran an investigation to determine whether public officials are using efficient travel modes.

Lockers and other specialty facilities for bicyclists are for essential meeting these goals. Our community must be committed to providing the tools that bicyclists need. It's unfortunate that both sides of this issue are not fully aired.

INVESTING IN BICYCLING

My friend Susan works in downtown Olympia. Although she bicycle commutes during the summer, she recently explained that because there is no safe place to leave her bicycle downtown, she drives instead. The City has installed a few bike racks, but they aren't covered. There are a few sheltered spots downtown but none are suitable for leaving a bicycle all day.

It's a shame. Besides giving Susan pleasure, bicycling helps reduce parking and congestion problems, and protects the environment. Multiply Susan's situation by dozen's or hundreds of other people in our community and you have a significant missed opportunity.

The benefits of bicycling have prompted organizations ranging from the Olympia Planning Department, the Olympia Area Chamber of Commerce, the Energy Outreach Center and the General Administration to establish goals to increase bicycle transportation.

With all of this support you'd think that the importance of installing secure bicycle racks would be obvious, but not so. There is still a bias toward driving and against bicycling, as indicated by an article in Thursday's *Olympian* [Nov. 21].

This front page article concerned an objection by Lacey resident Mike Nelson to South Puget Sound Community College spending $437 per bicycle for weatherproof and theft-proof lockers. Nelson considered the price "out of line".

There was no front page article questioning expenditure on automobiles. A single automobile parking space costs $1,400 to construct at SPSCC, and averages over $4,000 in urban areas. Multi-story automobile parking, which is often suggested for downtown Olympia, costs $10,000 to $20,000 per parking space.

Why make an issue out of the cost of bicycle racks when automobile parking averages ten times as high? Frankly, it amazes me, but this illustrates how blind many people are to the real social costs of automobiles. Cars are considered "normal" transportation worth subsidizing, while bicycles, pedestrians, and public transit are unnecessary "extras", worth only minimal support.

Cars are considered "normal" transportation worth subsidizing, while bicycles, pedestrians, and public transit are unnecessary "extras", worth only minimal support.

Unfortunately, putting the article on the front page indicates that investments in bicycling will be scrutinized more than comparable automobile facilities. This may dissuade other officials from investing in cost-effective but innovative bicycle, pedestrian or transit programs.

We need to develop a balanced and efficient transportation system that allows each travel mode to be used for what it does best. Bicycling is an excellent option for many local trips, such as getting to our community college. All it needs is a fair share of transport resources.

A New Year's Fairy Tale

The past year has been good to us. We're enjoying our new car...the mileage isn't what we were led to believe it would be, but with that big square radiator that seems to be a tradition on those British cars, I guess one just has to set priorities. We've added another wing on the house. We just call it the "East Wing". At least it gives the servants privacy.

Jim is doing well in the US Army. He's in intelligence. And while he's not allowed to talk about his responsibilities, we gather he was involved in planning the strategy for the Gulf War. After the war he was offered the rank of Brigadier General, but declined. He said he was pleased to be able to help, but didn't need the money and that it would interfere with his continued ability to contribute to national defense.

Cathy is doing well in school. She's on a Fulbright Scholarship at one of the Ivy League schools. She's doing medical research. Her professors believe she's on the brink of discovering an inexpensive cure for AIDS. Several pharmaceutical companies are bidding on her salary after her graduation. It probably would be inappropriate to talk about the amount. So let's just say its in the 6 figures. We don't know how she finds time for all of the activities in which she participates. Being one of the more popular students in her class has its drawbacks. Fortunately, it hasn't interfered with her interest in the flute. She's presently on a tour giving recitals in England, France and Germany.

Dan is doing well in school. He's class president, valedictorian, and acting principal. Last week he filled in for the instructor in his Nuclear Physics class. The staff members who wandered by, noticed the packed room and sat in, said it was one of the most informative and enlightening sessions they had ever attended. Many confessed that they had never really understood the Space/Time Continuum Theory until that moment. Dan will be guest lecturer at several universities next year. Offers are still arriving. It is unfortunate that Dan will have to pick and choose from among them. Governor Booth Gardner has not announced his plans after he retires from State government, but he's been consulting with Dan. We're not sure what's happening in that area, but Booth was quite excited when he left and we understand that at least some of Dan's free time will be occupied for the next several years.

It's pretty quiet with Connie and I. Our family is wintering in the sunbelt. We have our clubs and charities and it seems to keep us occupied. We are having the boat remodeled for a cruise through the Bahamas next spring. Nothing out of the ordinary happening on our end.

Striking:
Field Canvassers
SANE/FREEZE: A Peace and Justice Organization?

Greg Bye

"Through grassroots organizing, empower individuals to effectively promote the reversal of the nuclear arms race, the achievement of disarmament, a peacetime policies of JUSTICE AND OPENNESS." SANE/FREEZE Mission Statement

"Human Progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. The goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the constant exertions and passionate concerns of DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS." Martin Luther King, one of SANE's founding members in 1957

On Tuesday, November 5th, an informational picket/protest was held in the vicinity of the Seattle offices of Washington State SANE/FREEZE. The participants, who numbered nearly two dozen at times, were striking SANE/FREEZE field canvassers and their supporters. They are still out on strike as this is being written. Everyone carried brightly painted signs with slogans such as "Peace and Justice Begins in the Workplace!"; Cut the Pentagon's Budget, Not Canvassers' Pay!"; and "Negotiate Now!" Lively chants could be heard throughout the two hour picket/protest. Leaflets explaining the reasons behind the strike were given to casual passers-by.

Frequently, the protestors walked together to the alley-way entrance of the Canvass office. There, they urged the staff workers, including those hired to replace them, to come out and hear the strikers' version of the crisis as well as begin a dialogue.

Besides informing the public, and holding discussions with the staff, the organizers of the action also wanted to send a message to those in leadership roles at SANE/FREEZE. This being that the striking canvassers were more than willing to negotiate in good faith with the management and find solutions to their grievances.

Later that evening, the picketers went around to the alley-way to speak with the phone canvassers. The discussions that followed were helpful to the cause, as most had not heard the striking canvassers side of the story until then. Many phoners were sympathetic, and four decided to show solidarity by not working that evening.

Space limitations restrict the writing of a detailed analysis of the events that led up to the canvassers going on strike and related crises. (In addition, all but one member of the administrative staff had quit in disgust!) To summarize, the reasons for the mass defections are:

1) the unfair hiring and firing practices by the interim executive director. His misguided management "style" resulted in three separate grievances being filed against him simultaneously!

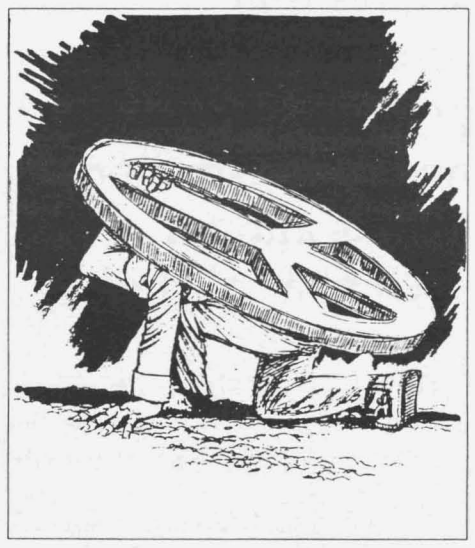
2) A pay-cut for the field canvassers that was drawn-up behind closed doors with no input from the people whose livelihoods the changes would affect.

The management imposed a "restructured" pay-scale for the field canvassers (actually a 20% cut in pay), eliminated 6-month raises, and discontinued having canvassers renew memberships at the door. This pay-cut is based on poor financial judgements and gross statistical misrepresentations. Not once did the Major Development Director, who authored the pay-cut, meet with the SANE/FREEZE finance manager to verify the accuracy of her figures. She also misled the Executive Committee as to the figures the cut were to be based on, as well as the probable results of this "pay-restructuring."

The final event that triggered the walkout was an October meeting between the Executive Committee and the Field Canvass. At that meeting, in spite of everything, the interim Executive Director was given a vote of confidence and the indefensible pay-cut proposal was rubber stamped. During the meeting, the canvassers were informed that they were to be merely fund-raisers. As the meeting was ending, one of the co-chairs told the canvassers "If you don't like it (the pay-cut) then quit."

The striking canvassers still believe that with a few key changes, Washington State SANE/FREEZE can once again be an instrument that works for peace and justice which many are rightly proud of. In fact, several of the striking canvassers would like nothing better than to resume working with the organization. However, if these grievances are not fairly resolved, SANE/FREEZE will have thereby renounced its commitment to peace and justice. Rather, it will merely be another organization that assuages the guilt and fears of liberals by giving the "illusion" that progress is being made.

To dismantle the war-based economy of the United States, including exploitation of the third



world, and global militarism, while returning to the American people a PEACE DIVIDEND, requires organizations that do not behave in the manner of their adversaries. Unassailable hierarchies, secret deals, and the dis-empowering of workers is the sort of behavior one should expect from the trans-national corporations and organizations like the Pentagon, not SANE/FREEZE.

Greg Bye, one of the striking canvassers, is a committed activist for peace and justice.

Unassailable hierarchies, secret deals, and the dis-empowering of workers is the sort of behavior one should expect from the trans-national corporations and organizations like the Pentagon, not SANE/FREEZE.

Arms Spending Unaffected by Cold War Thaw

Despite the end of the cold war, global military expenditures in 1990 still exceeded $900 billion, and in real terms were more than sixty percent above average annual outlays in the 1970s, according to a new report, World Military and Social Expenditures, 1991 by Ruth Leger Sivard.

The proportion of civilian deaths in wars across the world jumped to seventy-four percent in the 1980s, and to as much as ninety percent in 1990, the report added. This leap in civilian deaths was attributed to "increasingly lethal weaponry. Today's so-called conventional weapons now approach small nuclear weapons in their destructive power," the report said.

Other findings: 1) over the past thirty years, world military expenditures amounted to $2 trillion more than public expenditures for all levels of education, and to $6 trillion more than public expenditures for health care; 2) the chances that an aggressor nation will be victorious in war are shrinking; in the 1980s only eighteen percent of those countries starting wars were winners; 3) the world's armed forces are the single largest polluter on earth; in the US they produce more toxins annually than the top five chemical companies combined.

The author, an economist for the past forty years, began her annual compilation of military and social expenditures in 1965, as chief of the economics division of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in Washington. The report is available from: World Priorities, Box 25140, Washington, DC 20007. $6.50.

Meta Heller got permission to reprint this from the Oct/Nov 1991 Fellowship Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960; Murray Palmer, Editor.

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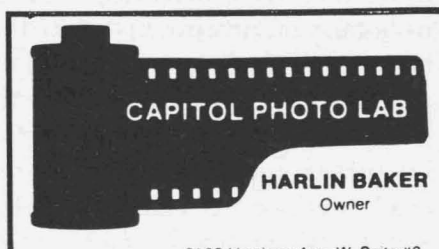
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Exploratory Committee
Friends of Teresa Jennings for State Representative
will meet Sat. Jan. 18th
12:30 - 2:30
First Christian Church
Seventh and Franklin
Call Tom Freeman at 943-1810
Space donated by TCRC

Former TESC Librarian Assails Programs of

Patrick A. Hall

A black librarian argues that affirmative action policies have a negative effect on blacks and on society as a whole.

However much history may be invoked in support of these policies, no policies can apply to history but can only apply to the present or the future. The past may be many things but it is clearly irrevocable.

Thomas Sowell, a black economist and social critic, wrote these words in his 1984 *Civil Rights: Rhetoric or Reality* referring to the policies of affirmative action as they have evolved over the last 18 years. As a black man in my 40s, I have in some ways benefited from such entitlement programs, so perhaps I should be the last person to initiate negative discourse toward them. But as I look back over the past decade since I left teaching and entered the library profession, the gains that others like myself have secured appear to be costing us much in the way of societal cohesion and racial tolerance. In retrospect, such pivotal events as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Supreme Court's 1959 *Brown vs Board of Education* decision provided blacks with the opportunity (stress *opportunity)* to achieve; but they did not guarantee any class, sex, or race the right to succeed.

I argue that the ideals of the civil rights movement were largely betrayed when equal opportunity was transformed into equal group results via evolutionary distortions in entitlement programs. This may be hard for many blacks, including myself, to accept, but the opportunities that have been in place for the past 20 years don't grant the right to guaranteed success, as entitlement programs seek to foster. In short, the civil rights movement gave us the right to vote, not the right to win.

Affirmative action has really only benefited individuals already in a position to take advantage of it, and has seldom touched the truly disadvantaged—those men and women who lack the education and skills needed to begin careers.

A historical brief on affirmative action

Like most controversial topics, affirmative action is one of those creatures that everyone has an opinion on; but most people's understanding of its historical antecedents is limited to 60-second sound bites or an occasional segment on "60 Minutes." Honestly, prior to preparing this essay my own knowledge wasn't much better. But as I read through materials tracing its development, it became clear that affirmative action and equal opportunity have evolved into something today that bears very little resemblance to what was originally intended during the civil rights era.

Prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, President Kennedy first used the term "affirmative action" in 1961 in his Executive Order No. 10,925. Its original intent was not to set up quotas, preferential treatment, or that Darwinian misnomer "protected classes." Kennedy's order sought to use the power of the executive branch and the federal government to monitor and intervene, if necessary, in cases of blatant racial inequalities and discriminatory practices. Even with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which gave rise to affirmative action and equal opportunity as distinct legislative philosophies, quotas and preferential treatment were not intrinsic to its application. It was in May 1968 that the Labor Department's Office of Federal Construction Compliance put out guidelines containing the fatefull expressions of goals, timetables, and representations. In other words, entitlement was the next logical step, and the malformation of an otherwise good piece of legislation had begun.

The irony in all of this is that affirmative action and equal opportunity originally intended people to be judged on their qualifications as individuals without regard to race, sex, or age. However, the policy as it has evolved requires that blacks, women, and so-called "protected classes" be judged with such differences in mind. I am deeply aware that racism and sexism are still part of the American landscape, and that blacks are especially under-represented in a variety of job classifications, including librarianship. But the use of quotas and preferential hiring is extremely problematic, and at best represents only a Pyrrhic victory. Some minorities have benefited, but even their achievements are tainted with the asterisk "special hire."

Legislating Fairness

In the fall of 1989, I attended a conference sponsored by the Oregon and Washington chapters of the Association of College and Research Libraries. During one of the sessions the issue of affirmative action and preferential hiring was raised, and some of the conferees commented on how it was causing a rift in staff morale at their various libraries. Several administrators suggested that we should try to point out to our staff how they as whites are privileged and enjoy unseen advantages. As discussion continued, those present seemed to accept this overused piece of hyper-explanation as a defense of affirmative action. I was especially troubled by the great deal of ambiguity that I sensed over this answer.

Talking with several people later during dinner, I discovered that most of them didn't favor affirmative action, but they feared being labeled racist if they said anything against it. This sort of fear can generate resentment; and if history has taught us anything, we should realize that resentments eventually have consequences. To tell people—especially many lower-class whites—that they are privileged "ain't gonna play" in Peoria.

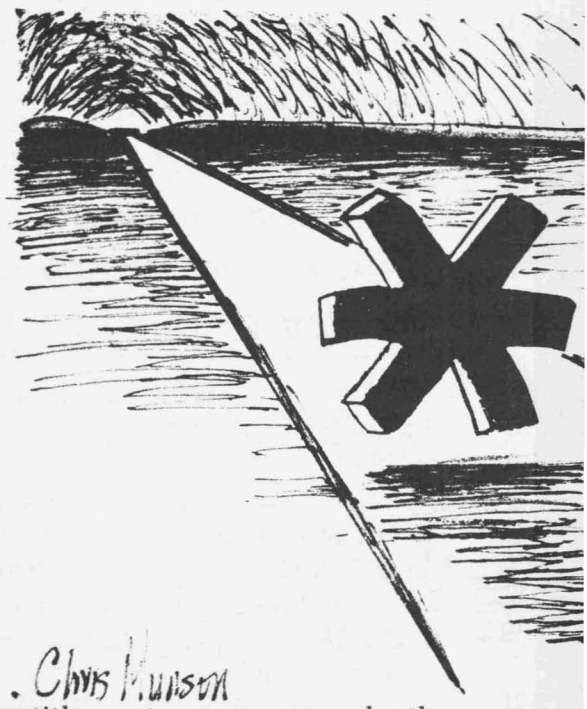
Although this notion of who is and who isn't privileged is a favorite polemic of insulated academics and many "professional blacks" (not to be confused with black professionals), it just doesn't wash with the majority of Americans. We can, as is often the case, write off anyone who objects to affirmative action as a racist—or in my case "an Uncle Tom suck-up." But it doesn't change the fact that these policies are counterproductive for blacks, whites, and most importantly, our nation, because they threaten to repoliticize race. The recent North Carolina senatorial race between Jesse Helms and Harvey Gantt was just an indication of the racial polarization that many had fought and died to reduce during the civil rights era. It is clear to any social observer that such politically chauvinistic policies as affirmative action inevitably provoke counter-chauvinism; and in a multicultural society such as ours, this could be a deadly scenario.

The asterisk

I recently had the privilege to talk with historian Shelby Steele, the author of *The Content of Our Character*. Several weeks earlier, I had seen him on the "Today" show discussing his book, and I called to congratulate him on this thought-provoking work, which calls for blacks to look to themselves and not to government entitlements for any lasting socioeconomic progress. Throughout his book, Steele stresses individual initiative as the key to any real progress for blacks.

As we finished our conversation, I fell extremely ambivalent about my own achievements, since affirmative action has always placed an asterisk next to them. After talking with other individuals, both minorities and females, I discovered that many of them harbor the same type of self-doubt, whether it is justified or not. This is only one of the negative consequences of affirmative action despite the so-called gains: No matter how hard one works, or how many master's or doctorate degrees one possesses, the special-hire asterisk--that small star of omission used to indicate doubtful matter--is ever-present.

Affirmative action has really only benefited individuals already in a position to take advantage of it, and has seldom touched the truly disadvantaged—those men and women who lack the education and skills needed to begin careers. As a librarian, I often recommend *The Truly Disadvantaged*, by William Julius Wilson, a book that I feel does an excellent job of illustrating the lack of impact



entitlement programs and other forms of social engineering have had on the poor. One of Wilson's most salient comments is that those minorities and women with education and skills have benefited disproportionately from entitlement programs because they were educationally, socially, and most importantly, motivationally disposed to do so.

One has to wonder whether individuals like myself would have achieved success anyway, even without affirmative action. Prior to the preference-based affirmative action of the early 1970s, blacks and women were making considerable strides on their own without the burden of the extra stigma of "protected-class hire" a stigma that indirectly continues to propagate the stereotypes of black inferiority.

Even my own family background suggests that motivation, individual initiative, and perseverance can overcome the most abhorrent situations. I am the 11th of 12 children, and many of my older brothers and sisters, who are now in their middle and late 50s, negotiated their professional careers in a world without entitlement programs. The blatant discrimination they experienced did not deter them from success.

With the passage of the equal opportunity laws mentioned earlier, minorities were provided with the necessary environment to take their best shot. The current dogma among many in the black community that present-day racism is more subtle but just as insidious speaks more to our mind-sets as helpless victims. This attitude breeds in far too many blacks the inability to seize opportunities that are readily apparent to

# of Affirmative Action

other minorities. The operative word here is opportunities, not guarantees. With the transition of affirmative action from equal opportunity to preference, from development via individual initiative to the-numbers game of representation, we are setting our society and its people against one another. Preference in any circumstance will breed backlash, because it inevitably sets up an "I-win-you-lose" scenario based on race or gender with little concern for the atmosphere it creates in the workplace.

This point was graphically brought home to me while working in the

library at a small alternative college in Washington State [TESC]. Like most academic institutions, the library was pushing racial and gender representation through affirmative action and on the surface the cherished goal of proportionate representation was being realized. Administrators and various academic deans made sure departments actively sought minority or other protected-class hires. In the library, minority representation was being pushed by individuals with very little concern for staff morale or about qualifications. There existed a largely unspoken rift between the administrators and the staff—both librarians and paraprofessionals—because many staff members felt representation was being rammed down their throats by the administrators.

Although individuals on the staff were quite nice to me, it was apparent to anyone who cared to notice that socially engineered fairness wasn't going to work. Whether they are black, white, red, or whatever, people don't like their concerns to go unnoticed. Administrators and other higher-ups either ignored this growing resentment, hoping it would subside, or simply labeled people who raised objections to blatant quota hires as racist, sexist, or whatever convenient term that could be used to censor discourse about preference policies.

Although most liberal whites at this college would never admit it, many of the hires, especially among the teaching faculty, were "vastly unqualified." People with PhDs from mail-order institutes were hired over colleagues who possessed credentials from places like Berkeley, Northwestern, or Yale. In one instance our library was so desperate to have a so-called "person of color" in technical services that a foreign national was hired. This individual happened to be "highly qualified"; but if the goal of affirmative action was to provide opportunities to historically oppressed minorities, giving the jobs to people from privileged classes from other countries is hardly what the framers of these policies had in mind. We simply cannot allow ourselves to sidestep the difficult goal of developing a formerly oppressed people, like African Americans, to the point where we can achieve proportionate representation on our own. This is the real challenge that faces blacks and other minority groups, a challenge that echoes from the basic belief of the civil rights movement that we should not be judged by our skin color or gender, but by our character. Two decades ago, preference policies offered politicians, both black and white, a cheap and easy way out of this dilemma. Now in the 1990s the balloon payment of socially engineered programs is coming due in the form of racial and ethnic discordance.

Some unspoken assumptions

As a black man who grew up in the 1950s and l960s and witnessed many of the triumphs and tragedies of the civil rights movement, my anxiety about speaking up against entitlement programs is very acute. Affirmative action started off well enough, but it has evolved into a legislative beast that threatens all of us by gradually undermining the very delicate intercultural rapport of our nation. As a reference librarian, I am constantly being exposed to a myriad of ideas that often lead me to explore areas and ideology that I might not otherwise have been exposed to. Along with some of the experiences I have outlined earlier, they have caused me to question some key assumptions underlying race-and gender-specific entitlement policies.

Despite the current economic downturn, I believe an equitable society is still possible, but not in the hyper-race-sensitive mind-set of affirmative action. First, I ask that proponents of affirmative action examine their underlying assumption that statistical disparities in the job market "imply discrimination." Secondly, I question the assumption that large statistical differences between groups do not usually arise, and more importantly persist, without discrimination.

Although a thorough discussion of these two assumptions is well beyond the scope of this article, proponents of-entitlement philosophies need to consider (if not admit to) other factors that impede upward mobility, especially among blacks. A negative family background, lack of personal motivation and initiative, and a lack of values that emphasize effort and .sacrifice are all factors that will hinder one's chances for success in this society.

The U.S. has also seen a marked shift in the industrial/manufacturing paradigm, which has greatly affected blacks but has produced disparities that have little or nothing to do with blatant discrimination. In the past three decades, people who were heavily represented in the "smokestack" industries (i.e., autoworkers, machinists) have seen their jobs disappear because of automation, foreign competition, companies moving to foreign countries, and just plain bad management. Blacks as well as working-class whites who depended on this employment were, of course, hurt the most and continue to be so. It could be argued that the reason blacks were so overrepresented in these disappearing industries was because of past discrimination. This has its validity, but doesn't negate the fact that these shifts resulting in massive unemployment have little or nothing to do with race or discrimination, as proponents of affirmative action claim.

The defining of middle-class values as "white" by both less-educated and educated blacks (who should know better) is perhaps the most insidious factor that continues to hamstring the progress of blacks as a group. If someone is reasonably articulate, motivated, and focused on success, the black community often brings forth a particularly nasty reflex response that interprets this as "being white"; the corresponding "black identity" implicitly preferred by many in the community is ephemeral at best and counterproductive to our socioeconomic progress. It is no accident that so many black youths chastise their studious peers with the indictment that "it's not cool to study," or "you think you're white." Black adults continue this "racial navelgazing" by labeling black spokespersons who disagree with this traditional dogma as "white" or "Uncle Toms."

In many ways the greatest obstacle to our progress as a people has been ourselves and many of our so-called leaders. In our single-minded focus on racism and discrimination as "the" factor in our lack of upward mobility, we continue to foster a victim mentality often disguised as a "black identity." This victim mentality consistently leads us to sacrifice the lamb of individual initiative at the altar of government entitlements.

I can no longer accept the liberal dogma that all whites are somehow privileged, and all blacks are innocent victims. This belief is not only counterproductive to societal cohesion. . . but it also ignores the increasing role that class differences play as significant variables in an individual's chances for upward mobility.

No easy solutions

If not affirmative action, then what? I repeat that it is not affirmative action per se that I object to, but rather its perversion by those who continue to equate it with the civil rights movement. In actuality, the movement ended decades ago, and what has existed for the last 18 years has been the scramble for privileges, turf, and just plain power politics by black opportunists who see profit in maintaining their "wards of the state" status. The painful reality is that society can never repay blacks for their past suffering, but can provide a chance for advancement in today's world. Affirmative action, with its emphasis on representation, circumvents the most difficult ingredient in true individual and group empowerment—development. As Shelby Steele said, representation can be manufactured; development is always hard-earned.

Affirmative action should therefore return to its original purpose of monitoring inequalities and discriminatory practices that still exist. In addition, policymakers should abandon with all haste any race-specific public policies in favor of policies that benefit all the disadvantaged of our nation, regardless of race or gender.

As argued earlier, I can no longer accept the liberal dogma that all whites are somehow privileged, and all blacks are innocent victims. This belief is not only counterproductive to societal cohesion, giving the David Dukes and Louis Farrakhans of our society more fuel for racial polarization, but it also ignores the increasing role that class differences play as significant variables in an individual's chances for upward mobility.

I would like to direct my final comments to black professionals, especially those of us over 40 who can remember the ideals of the black power movement of the 1960s, which preached empowerment through self-determination. We need to tell our young people over and over again to work hard and not use race as an excuse for failure. The effects of historic racism have left us behind in the race for success; but as Martin Luther King, Jr., put it, this only means we have to run a little harder and not equate our salvation as a people with entitlement programs or other outside arbiters. We need to mentor "positively," and not focus on the usual victim litany that inhibits our ability as a people to see opportunities outside the blinders of affirmative action.

Patrick Hall is formerly the Ethnic-Services Librarian for the Evergreen State College. He currently works in California.

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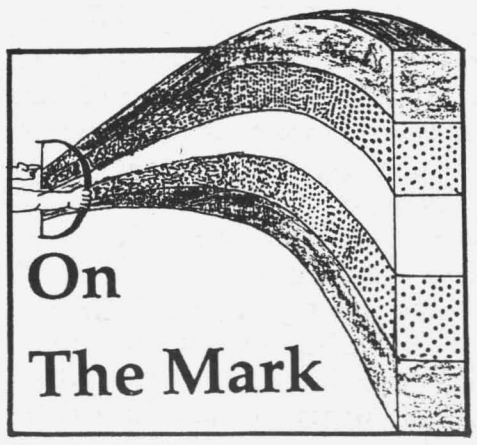


Shedding The Myths Of Christopher Columbus

Dave Jette

This year is the anniversary of the "discovery" of America by Christopher Columbus on October 12, 500 years ago. There will be celebrations of all sorts organized by our leaders and hyped by our mass media. Others, of lesser political stature, will be holding "commemorations" rather than celebrations of that even. In Uruguay, for example, the Indians will commemorate October 11, 1492, as their "last day of freedom". In this and succeeding articles, we shall examine the controversy surrounding this anniversary.

This first article will present the historical facts of Columbus's adventure, for much of what we have learned about that is simply untrue and serves to further the white supremacy upon which our social system is based. Our reference here is Columbus: His Enterprise; Exploding the Myth by Hans Koning, published by Monthly Review Press. (It is available in paperback for $8.95 plus $2.00 shipping from Monthly Review Foundation, 122 West 27th Street, New York, NY 10001. Ask for their extensive catalogue while you're at it!)

But why worry about whether we celebrate or commemorate this very important event in world history? Koning explains why in the introduction to the book (p. 9):

> You may object that there is nothing wrong with some fun flag waving and parading - but there is. When you read the story of Columbus that follows, keep in mind that you aren't reading anyone's opinion. You are reading facts of history. The year 1492 opened an era of genocide, cruelty, and slavery on a larger scale than had ever been seen before. We must finally learn to look at that past with open eyes. We must dare abandon our comfortable but false myths, for the sake of our children and their children. If we do not learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it. We must hope and try for a new harmony, for an atonement of past crimes, and discover in that way a truly new world.

THE VOYAGE

One of the more interesting myths about Christopher Columbus is that it was generally believed at the time that the world was flat, and that he (and his crew, of course) defied this commonplace and possibly risked falling off the edge of the world with their voyage into the unknown. To the contrary, as Koning explains (p. 30), "in the 1480's there was no educated man or woman who did not know the world was round". This knowledge had been built up starting with the Greeks, who as early as 500 B.C. had understood that the earth was a sphere. In fact, in the third century B.C. Eratosthenes had determined the earth's circumference with amazing accuracy. This was accomplished through calculations involving the height of the sun at noon, which varies (on the same day) according to one's latitude.

So what held people back from sailing westward? (At least Europeans - it seems that Africans had already sailed west to the New World centuries before Columbus, but that is a story we shall have to take up at another time.) First, there was fear of simply sailing out into open water, for navigational aids at that time weren't that well developed and ships invariably hugged coastlines no matter how large the detour involved. In this respect Columbus certainly deserves our admiration as an explorer.

Second, people knew that you simply couldn't get there from here, by sailing west. The circumference of the earth had been fairly well determined, and China was known to lie far beyond the range of sailing ships (limited by the amount of provisions they could carry). But Columbus produced his own calculations which showed the distance to be much shorter than thought. The Spanish royal Court consulted advisors who (rightly) rejected Columbus's calculations, but in the end they sponsored the trip anyway, not having much to lose and a whole lot to gain in their race with Portugal to the Indies.

What did Columbus have to gain? There was of course the psychological, self-reward accorded to any successful attempt to conquer the unknown where no one else dared go. Also, "even in that religious and bigoted age, Columbus stood out as a very fierce Catholic. When he discussed his westward voyage, he always dwelt on its religious aspects: to convert the Asian `heathens' to Catholicism, and/or to use their gold for the reconquest of the Holy Land from the Moslems." (p. 35)

" . . . When Columbus discussed his westward voyage, he always dwelt on its religious aspects: to convert the Asian `heathens' to Catholicism, and/or to use their gold for the reconquest of the Holy Land from the Moslems."

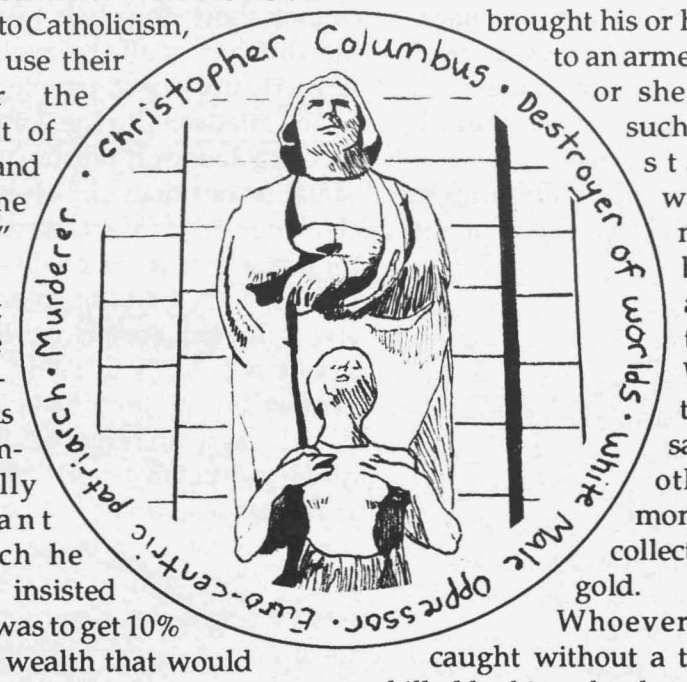
But there were also material rewards for Columbus, totally exorbitant ones which he absolutely insisted upon. He was to get 10% "of all the wealth that would arrive from Asia along the new route, brought not only by himself but by everyone else, and not just for any specific period of time, but forever more, for himself and his heirs" (p. 37). He was to receive the title of "Admiral of the Ocean Sea", a hereditary title which would give him jurisdiction in a large part of the western Atlantic and a share in all prize money from that area, that is, in all proceeds from naval booty. And he was to become governor of any newly found land, acting under the authority of the Spanish monarchy. Not bad pay for a couple months' work!

Neither was Christopher Columbus a particularly nice fellow. There was to be a royal reward - a substantial lifetime pension - for the first sailor to sight land. This was done very early in the morning of October 12 by a sailor aboard the Pinta, which was the fastest ship and was sailing ahead of the other two ships. But Columbus, on the Santa Maria, said that he had seen a light during the evening before and claimed reward for himself. Clearly, you never can have too much wealth!

Columbus As Governor

In starting our examination of what the "discovery" of America by Europeans meant for the people who already lived there, let us look at the system which Columbus and his brother Bartolom* adopted as governors of these lands, to garner gold for shipment back to Spain. The remainder of this article is taken from pages 83-84 of Columbus: His Enterprise:

> Every man and woman, every boy or girl of fourteen or older, in the province of Cibao (of the imaginary gold fields) had to collect gold for the Spaniards. As their measure, the Spaniards used those same miserable hawks' bells, the little trinkets they had given away so freely when they first came "as if from Heaven". Every three months, every Indian had to bring to one of the forts a hawks' bell filled with gold dust. The chiefs had to bring in about ten times that amount. In the other provinces of Hispaniola, twenty-five pounds of spun cotton took the place of gold.
>
> Copper tokens were manufactured, and when an Indian had brought his or her tribute to an armed post, he or she received such a token, stamped with the month, to be hung around the neck. With that they were safe for another three months while collecting more gold.
>
> Whoever was caught without a token was killed by his or her hands cut off. There are old Spanish prints ... that show this being done: the Indian stumble away, staring with surprise at their arm stumps pulsing out blood.
>
> There were no gold fields, and thus, once the Indians had handed in whatever they still had in gold ornaments, their only hope was to work all day in the streams, washing out gold dust from the pebbles. It was an impossible task, but those Indians who tried to flee into the mountains were systematically hunted down with dogs and killed, to set an example for the others to keep trying.
>
> By that time there was no longer a possibility of mass resistance. The Admiral, his brother Bartolom*, and Hojeda had crushingly defeated the only army the Indians ever managed to bring together. Armor, muskets, swords, horses, and dogs had made the Spaniards invincible. All prisoners had been hanged or burned to death. The island was so well pacified that a Spaniard could go anywhere, take any woman or girl, take anything, and have the Indians carry him on their backs as if they were mules.
>
> Thus it was at this time that the mass suicides began: the Arawaks killed themselves with cassava poison.
>
> During those two years of the administration of the brothers Columbus, an estimated one-half of the entire population of Hispaniola was killed or killed themselves. The estimates run from 125,000 to one-half million.



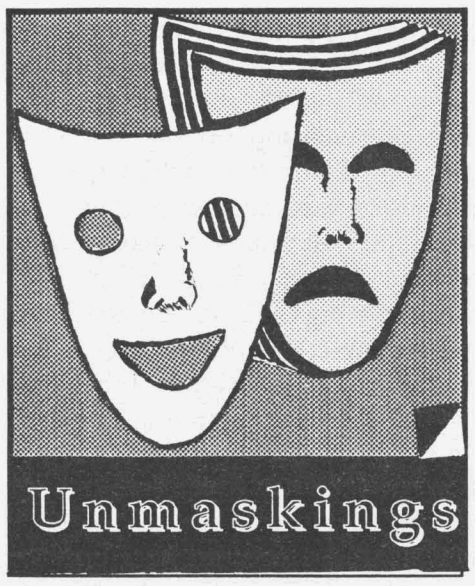
Columbus didn't retain his power for very long, but the killings nonetheless continued apace. By 1515 there were no more than ten thousand Arawaks left alive, and within another 25 years the entire nation had vanished from the earth. It is

because of such horrible occurrences, continued unrelentlessly through the centuries to follow, that we should "commemorate" rather than "celebrate" Columbus's voyage, just as we commemorate rather than celebrate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Unfortunately, as we shall observe in coming columns, this pattern of genocide by white people against people of color has by no means been accidental, but rather has followed a particular insidious logic.

Dave is a regular columnist for Works In Progress.

About The Rose Bowl

Some semblance of respect and justice is happening for the first time in 103 years. The New Year's Day parade, the Rose Parade, has appointed a second grand marshal. Spanish aristocrat and Columbus descendant, Cristobal Colon, has to share his formerly sole honor as grand marshal with an American Indian, Representative Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D., CO). This addition came after serious criticism of the Quincentennial celebration.



MR. SMITH MEETS THELMA AND LOUISE

Ron Jacobs

"All I'm asking for is just a little respect..." - Aretha Franklin singing Otis Redding's words.

During the first couple weeks of December, television viewers were presented with the spectacle of William K. Smith's trial for rape on CNN. Without going into the media presentation of the proceedings, one must acknowledge the conflicting emotions the trial provoked in our society. Although Mr. Smith was acquitted, this doesn't mean he was not guilty of forcing himself on his accuser, Ms. Bowman. Not unlike many men, young and old, Smith's perception of his actions was that he did nothing wrong.

The same day Ms. Bowman took the stand and related a story of a rather brutal encounter with Mr. Smith, I saw the movie *Thelma and Louise*. The similarities leaped from the wide screen of the State Theatre into my psyche. I couldn't help comparing the taking of items from the Kennedy estate by the victim as proof of her visit, to Louise's admonition to Thelma (after a brutal encounter with a rapist in the parking lot outside a bar) that no one would believe them if they reported the attack to the police. After all, she told Thelma, "half the bar saw you hanging on him all night".

The same day Ms. Bowman took the stand and related a story of a rather brutal encounter with Mr. Smith, I saw the movie Thelma and Louise. The similarities leaped from the wide screen of the State Theatre into my psyche.

In the eyes of the law, the shooting of the rapist Harlan in the film served the same purpose as the stolen property from the Kennedy mansion. These acts became proof of the women's lack of moral character. Never mind the fact that both the theft and the shooting were desperate acts of self defense by women who felt their options were rather limited.

Rape, say most commentators, is not a question of sex, but of power. This is quite apparent in Harlan's attempted rape of Thelma in the film. It is somewhat less clear in the William Smith matter. To discover where the abuse of power lies, we must look beyond the actual incident. Like many date rape instances, there are some nuances to be uncovered. It is quite possible, as I mentioned before, that Mr. Smith, like many other men, did not think he was committing rape. The jury's interpretation of the law agreed. In our culture it is the assumed right of most men to get what they want, if not in terms of employment or housing, surely when it comes to

sex.

Add to this assumption the arrogance of a man whose life is one of economic and social privilege, and it is quite possible Smith did not believe the assaulted woman meant no when she said no. Males with much less privilege have made this assumption countless times before. Unaware of a life without the sexual privilege males assume in our earthly patriarchy, behavior such as Smith's is understandable, yet certainly not excusable.

Although the trial raises questions concerning rape laws and their prosecution, it is hard to believe the current system will change. Especially on its own. Like the Hill-Thomas sexual harassment hearings earlier in 1991 showed, the best we can hope for with the current good ol' boy setup is that women and men will educate themselves as to what constitutes mutual consent and respect. And act accordingly. Too many women, like Louise, have an unspeakable "something that happened in Texas" in their pasts. Or futures. Laws won't change that. We have to.

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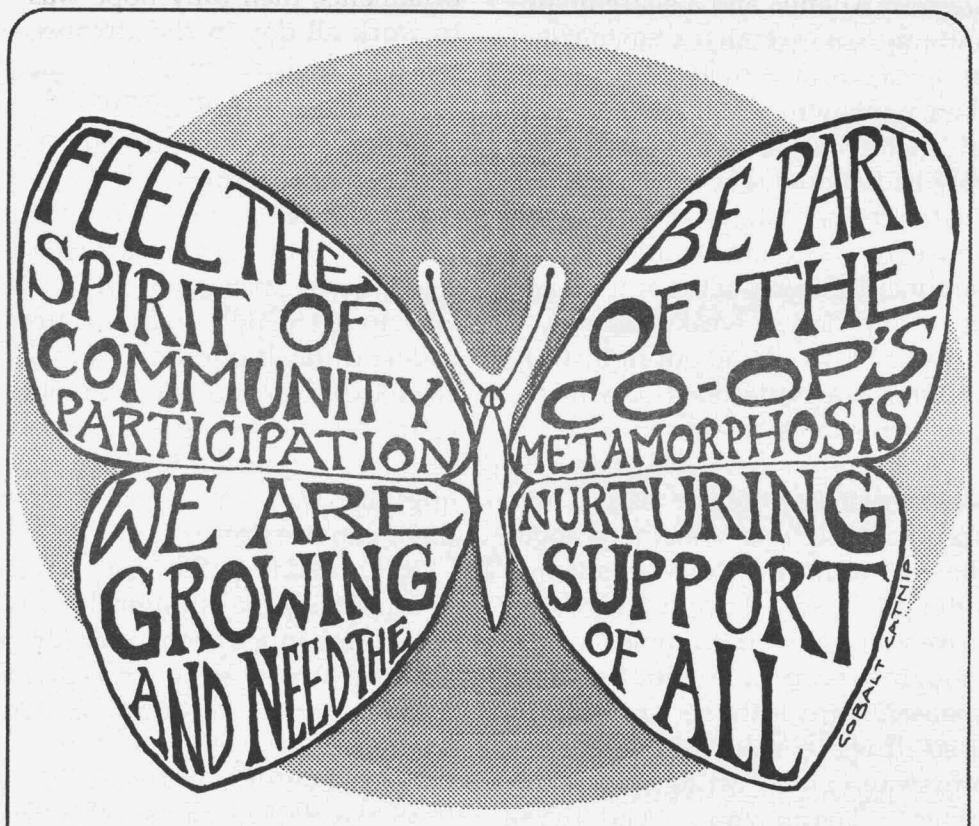
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Thoughts Out Of School

D.A.R.E To Ask Questions About Drugs

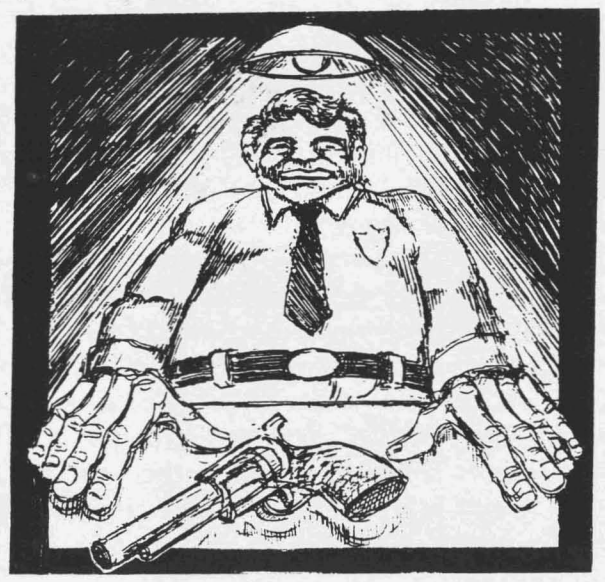
William Ray Arney

This is the first article of a three part series that deals with Mr. Arney's comments on education. They are based on his work in the teacher education program at the Evergreen State College.

This is about the day the D.A.R.E cop came to class. The class consisted of 65 would-teachers in the teacher education program at The Evergreen State College. The D.A.R.E. cop tried to give his 17 hour curriculum on drugs and drug education and how to "say no" and how to find other things to do with your life in the one hour allotted to him. Finally, he did it, but not without a few questions.

D.A.R.E is a model curriculum project for anyone interested in reforming the schools. I'm surprised that no one else in the reform business has paid attention. In the school district, where my son spends a lot of his life, the local Police Department is given 17 seat hours of all the children's time in two separate grades. If you want to know how to change the curriculum in your school, talk to the D.A.R.E folks. They know.

First, pick a topic that a lot of people are concerned about. It should be a topic that worries a lot of people but that not a lot of them



are doing anything about. "The war on drugs" is one of those government programs that creates a new source of grant money for law enforcement agencies around the country, makes a good plank in a political platform for politicians who'd really rather have everything remain just about as it is, and--and this is the key to school reform--generates a lot of worry in parents who, before the start of the "war, " were confident about their abilities to teach their children to stay away from dangerous things. The "war on drugs" is an exemplary starting point for changing a curriculum.

Second, assemble a lot of "research. " It turns out that one or two Ph. D. ed people down in southern California assembled most of the "research" that is used by all the D.A.R.E programs around the country. To listen to the D.A.R.E cop, you'd think they researched everything--including, he will tell you, the black and neon pink colors of the D.A.R.E. logo: "research has shown that hot pink on black attracts kids' attention better than any other combination." Not incidentally, this "research" keeps the people in California well heeled because they get to hold seminars and institutes, and cops from all over the country come (many courtesy of their grants) to southern California to learn about the "research" so that they can go home to their towns and answer all the questions of the local folks with sentences that begin, "Research has shown...." You don't have to have a Ph.D. to sound smart; you just have to have been in the presence of two of them for an institute or two.

Third, get the local business community on your side before you approach the schools. It helps to ask the car dealers if they would donate a van. In fact, ask if they would donate a new van every year. For the war on drugs and a tax write-off, one of them is usually happy to do so. Make sure that part of the deal is that the local businesses paint your van with the logo--in the "research has shown" colors--so that you can drive to the School Board meetings as if you are ready to go.

Fourth, design a curriculum, make it thick, but don't promise to do anything about the real problem (like the "war on drugs" in this case). Make it something like 17 hours long. If people are really worried about something and have no idea what to do about that something, it helps to seem like you have something--better if it's a lot--to say, even if you end up saying nothing about the problem and a lot about how to live meaningful lives, etc.

Finally, when you go to the School Board meeting and ask to be allowed to teach the community's children for such a long time, wear a uniform with a badge, but leave the gun in the van. Research has shown they'll think you're thoughtful.

Once you get into the schools, the nearby university or college will invite you to give the people in the teacher education program a little guest presentation on the kinds of things you do in the schools. They will send a letter that says something like, "We hope that you will take part of the hour telling our students, who will be starting their student teaching next fall, something about the D.A.R.E program and a little about what you do when you are in elementary schools. We'd like you to leave about half the time for questions." No matter what the invitation says, it's best to plan to fill the whole time with your material. Hand out an outline of the seventeen hours of curriculum and try to plow through summaries of the whole thing. If you don't, they will ask questions.

. . . design a curriculum, make it thick, but don't promise to do anything about the real problem (like the "war on drugs" in this case).

The D.A.R.E cop came to our class late one afternoon. He began by handing out the outline of the seventeen hours of the drug education curriculum. He told everyone to ask anything they wished; he'd like to keep this as informal as possible, he said. "Do you wear your gun--like that one on your belt ! --when you go into elementary schools?" "Oh my gosh -- No, not at all. I always leave that in the van. I'm sorry. My mistake. Let me just put it here on the table while we talk." But nothing flustered the guy, not making the mistake of bringing his gun to class, not having a loaded gun on the table while he talked. Research probably had shown that if you ever get flustered when talking about drugs, if you ever show any kind of strong sentiment one way or the other, if you show any sign of weakness in your rap--they'll smell you out right away and start to ask questions. So, with the gun on the table, he started.

"Anyone in here want to say whether or not they've used drugs and maybe tell us something about the circumstances?" Nervous stirring: After all, he did have a badge and there was a gun on the table. Finally, though, a few people volunteered responses. A guy in the back row said, "I used drugs in Viet Nam. It was the only way I could get to sleep sometimes." "Thank you.... And thank you.... And thank you.... So not all of you are strangers to drugs. So let me tell you a little about the D.A.R.E. program. Back in ..., two psychologists in Los Angeles started looking at the research...."

And so it went. For fifty minutes we heard about the research and the colors and the new van every year and the seventeen lessons and about the way that, yes, the curriculum is a little controversial, but participation in the program is voluntary ("but the kids really like learning these skills"), and the parents can come to any of the sessions that they like.... And so on.

Finally, I had to ask: "I've been reading this theological scientist [one way some of his friends identify Ivan Illich] and he has called, throughout his life, for the decriminalization of all means of self-destruction. He argues that, in these times, the use of drugs may be a reasonable response to a bad situation. So I was wondering, in your view, what is so bad about drugs?"

"That's an interesting comment. What exactly do you have in mind?" Research <u>had</u> shown you should never get flustered.

"Well, I have in mind something like Mr. so-and-so in the back row said at the beginning of the session. Sometimes you have to take drugs just to get to sleep. Sometimes you find yourself in a very bad situation that is nothing of your doing, but it's just very bad. Some people drink to kill their pain; others take drugs. So what is so bad about drugs?"

"But the kids I'm talking to are not in Viet Nam."

I was beginning to suspect that research had shown that it is better not to answer some questions, but I tried again.

" I don't know about that. I read a lot about child abuse these days. And I read a lot about more and more kids growing up in poverty. And I read some about kids going to bed hungry. And recently I read a story about violence in Washington, D. C., that reported that one-fourth -- twenty-five percent -- of the children in the public schools of our nation's capital <u>have witnessed a murder.</u> You are right, of course. The kids you talk to are not in Viet Nam. But I am not convinced that they are not in a situation in which the use of drugs might not be a reasonable response to a very bad situation. So I was wondering what is so bad about drugs?"

"You raise a very interesting point." (I was convinced that research had probably shown that one way to get people to desist from asking difficult questions is to tell them that they had asked an interesting question.) "I guess my only response would be to ask you a question: Who's in control of your life if you use drugs?"

"I'm afraid I would turn it back to you and ask you a question: In a city where one in four school children report that they have witnessed a murder, <u>who</u> is in control of their lives?"

"Well, that's interesting. . . ."

At precisely this interesting moment, the students in the program got involved: "This kind of exchange could go on forever," one woman said. "The man only has ten minutes left and he's only up to lesson eleven. I hope you'll let him go on with this now."

He did. He finished without ever getting flustered.

I don't know what the would-be teachers learned that day. I learned that if you dare to ask questions about drugs, the D.A.R.E cop will probably find your questions interesting.

Although the particulars of this story may be suspect, it is a true story. Arney is a faculty out at the Evergreen State College.

Coming Soon:

EarthSave Local Action Group

Dan O'Flaherty

Have you ever heard of an organization or cause that simply grabbed you and said "This is for me, this is something I believe in, this is something that can make a difference! "?

Well, there is a group forming now that could have this kind of impact on you. Earthsave Olympia will have their first meeting Jan 16th, 7:30-9:00 at Red Apple Natural Foods.

Earthsave is headquartered in Santa Cruz California, and was founded be now president John Robbins (of Baskin + Robbins fame). John forgave his family's fortune and started research on the dairy and meat industries and wrote his pulitzer prize nominated book, *Diet for a New America* This book has had a dramatic impact on many, many people. My wife and I have gone completely vegetarian (vegan) and are now professing its benefits. Earthsave has thirty local action groups and a total paid membership of 4,000.

Earthsave teaches that our current meat and dairy diets and our large-scale agriculture methods have a detrimental impact on our environment, our health, animals and all other life.

We will awaken people to the issues of animal; cruelty, the issues of routine feeding of antibiotics, steroids and hormones, the issues that 60,000,000 humans will starve this year, yet we fed 95% of the oats, 90% of the soy bean, and 80% of the corn grown in this country to livestock!!

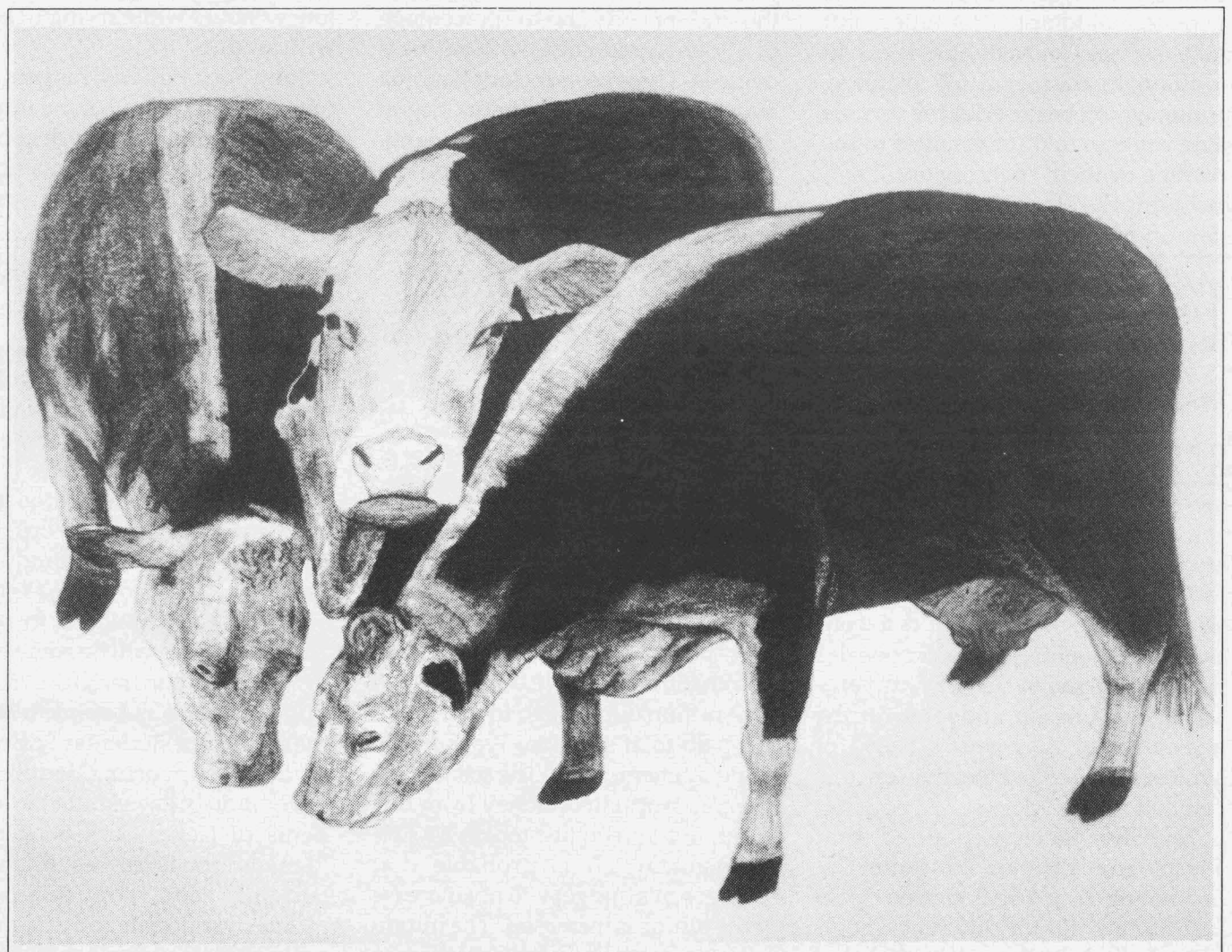
The statistics go on and on and on. Please, we **strongly** urge you to **read** *Diet for a New America*!! Or borrow our one hour video for free. It will touch your compassionate side for animals, it will open your eyes to the facts that we have all been programmed to believe in the four food groups by the Meat and Dairy industries. It will further your conviction to eat locally produced organic foods. It will prove to you that not only are many diseases in this country caused by excess animal consumption, but that many can be cured by eliminating such practices. It will anger you, it will sorrow you, but it will also empower you to realize that you can make a difference.

Activities we will perform include: **1.** Implement healthy low-fat school lunch programs **2.** Speakers and videos **3.** Vegetarian potlatches and cooking classes **4.** Educating restaurants **5.** Enlightening political leaders **6.** Fund-raising projects, mall shows, health fairs.

Our big event for the year will be on May 11-12th. We are the local organizers for the YES tour (Youth for Environmental Sanity), a group of young men and women who will perform at assemblies for the local High Schools, Evergreen and at the Community Center. A very powerful group of teens that will reach over a half million youngsters with their message!

For more Information contact Dan or Robyn O'Flaherty at Red Apple Natural Foods 400 Cooper point 357-8779. **Visit our Earthsave table!**

. . . that not only are many diseases in this country caused by excess animal consumption, but that many can be cured by eliminating such practices.



Drawing by Pat Tassoni

Come to the Earthsave Foundation's First Meeting in Olympia at Red Apple Natural Foods
January 16, 1992
From 7:30 to 9 pm
For more info call 357-8779

News from KAOS Public Radio

Mark Berger

TCI Cablevision Drops KAOS

As of December 1, 1991, TCI Cablevision, Olympia no longer carries KAOS 89.3 FM as part of its audio service package. KAOS is one of several stations dropped make room for TCI's subscription-only DMX Digital Music Service. TCI officials could not be reached for comment. Several KAOS listeners were reportedly told by TCI personnel that KAOS was dropped because the signal was locally available off the air (unlike television, the FCC does not require cable operators to carry all locally available radio signals on their systems). These listeners also report that TCI offers conflicting information about this change of service: In some cases, listeners are told KAOS will be re-offered when it is technically feasible. Others are told TCI is awaiting subscriber response, while still others are told the change is permanent. If you would like more information, or to offer comment on this change in cable service, call TCI Cablevision of Olympia at 357 3364.

KAOS Has New Phone Numbers

As of December 18, KAOS has a new telephone system. The new system is part of the station's newly-remodeled facility, and should offer more direct access to those seeking KAOS services. The new phone numbers are:

Air studio/request line/call-in - Dial Direct 866-5267
Offices - Dial 866 6000, and ask for:
Reception and Information - x 6893
Business and Events - x 6894
Manager - x 6895
Music Department - x 6896
Programming and Training - x 6897

Katy Murray MSW, CCDCIII
Therapy • Consultation • Training
3434 Martin Way, #3
Olympia, WA 98506 (206) 438-0306

THOUSAND CRANES FUTONS
209 N. Washington
Olympia
Washington 98501
206.357.8464

Smithfield CAFE
OLYMPIA
TWO TWELVE WEST FOURTH AVENUE
Hours: 7-8 Weekdays, 8-8 Weekends, 786-1725

Evergreen Tuition Hike

Diana Arens

Governor Booth Gardner has proposed as part of a package to balance the Washington State budget a 35% tuition increase for in state undergraduate Evergreen students. (This increase would apply to tuition, but not to services and activities fees.) In addition to the usual 5% increase, tuition would be raised at the various state colleges and universities to the average of their "peer institutions". Including the planned 5% increase, in state undergraduate tuition would be increased by 35% at Evergreen, 24% at the University of Washington, 19% at Western, Central and Eastern, and 14% at Washington State University. There are a number of factors to consider when looking at this proposal. I spoke with Jennifer Jaech, Evergreen's Legislative Liaison, and John Terrey, a member of Evergreen's Board of Trustees to get perspective on this difficult issue.

Jennifer Jaech explained that Washington's Higher Education Coordinating Board had chosen "peer institutions" for the different schools of higher education with the goal of using them as a comparative tool in measuring per student funding from the legislature. Realistically, Evergreen's ideological peers were private schools. This was unacceptable to the HEC Board because the Board needed to compare public funding. Therefore, 27 public colleges were selected as Evergreen's peers based on such factors as size of the student body and the percentage of students graduating with business degrees. These peers include Sonoma State in California, Southern Oregon State, and Saint Mary's in Maryland. John Terrey noted that, "Evergreen has never really agreed that these are indeed our peer institutions." This list of schools, suspect as genuine peers of TESC, was once compiled to compare state funding. Now these lists have been used to argue that our tuition should equal the average of our "peers".

What many people don't know is that tuition does not go to the school it's paid to, it goes into Washington State's general fund.

What many people don't know is that tuition does not go to the school it's paid to, it goes into Washington State's general fund. The schools are then appropriated money from this fund. Evergreen just took a 2 1/2% budget cut. It is probable that Evergreen's budget will not increase if the tuition is increased. The tuition plan is essentially a tax increase aimed at students. The money will not necessarily be used to benefit the students, and the increase comes at a time when students can least afford to pay. It is state policy that 24% of the revenues generated from a tuition increase go to financial aid. This increase probably cannot cover the students already receiving financial aid, much less the students who will be forced into needing help. Some students will be forced to drop out, and many students will have to work longer hours while trying to keep up with studies.

John Terrey offered his perspective on the ramifications of the tuition increase in terms of the student population: "The social consequences will tend to make both (TESC and UW) more elite. It's obviously going to have an adverse impact on the social goal of a diverse institution." Evergreen is committed to a multicultural curriculum and to increasing its population of students, faculty and staff of color. In addition, it is crucial that Evergreen come to some sort of class consciousness. There is a huge social difference between the students who are able to be supported financially while they study and the students who have to work for a living and may have children to support. Although there will be some increase in financial aid, increasing Evergreen's tuition by 35% is bound to decrease the amount of students of color, older students supporting families, first generation college students, and students of lower class backgrounds. "Low tuition is the best financial aid package," John Terrey quipped.

The overall state increase in tuition will generate some 44 million dollars for the Washington State general fund in a 15.7 billion dollar budget. Why is Booth Gardener singling out students for a huge tax increase at a time when the are least able to pay? What sort of values does this reveal towards higher education in general? John Terrey's perspective, which on this matter I share, is that the state is shooting itself in the foot by devaluing the importance of higher education; that developing the minds of all people is the

only intelligent way to meet the oncoming economic problems. Perhaps in the coming years the corporations need more cogs in the machine who don't question why things are the way they are. Perhaps less higher education is a part of the trend towards deskilling the labor force so they have less power and can be payed lower wages. The question to ask is, "Who pays, and who benefits?"

Booth Gardner's budget plan that includes the mammoth tuition increases is bound to be joined by plans introduced by legislators. This issue will advance quickly, so if you care about the future of egalitarian access to higher education, you need to pay attention closely in the coming weeks. Organize, protest, demonstrate, call, write, and visit those who legislate our lives. The legislative hotline number is 1-800-562-6000.

Diana Arens is a 4th year student at TESC.

Love Connection

Matt Love

"Let truth and falsehood grapple. Who ever knew truth put to the worse in a free and open encounter?" - John Milton

A while back, I was excoriated for what I've written about the Ingram case, by a self-styled victims advocate . She accused me of being "trendy", because like a handful of others, I believe that in this case truth and falsehood have never grappled "in a free and open encounter", and should.

Abuse is real, she told me, and mentioned a local case where a man abused his four children so badly that their sphincter muscles no longer work. I don't need to be told of the reality of abuse; but her sophistic argument begs the question. It is the very lack of physical evidence in the Ingram case that is so troubling. An uncritical acceptance of all charges of abuse, especially in sensational cases like this one, ultimately can only hurt victims. After the hysteria has passed, there will be a heightened tendency to disbelieve victims.

On the Sally Jessy Raphael show, Ericka Ingram claimed to have been brutally abused for 22 years; She claimed she was burned and had nails driven through her body. She said she had scars all over her body, and she was given abortions with coat hangers and swords. (Her sister Julie has told similar, though not corroborating, stories)

Yet Judith Ann Jacobson of Providence Medical Center, a gynecologist hired by the Sheriff's Department to examine Ericka and her sister Julie, tells a different story. When interviewed by a law enforcement officer, she reported that she did a full examinations of Ericka and Julie, saw "all of their skin", and there were no scars or markings on any part of their bodies., other than an appendix scar on Ericka's stomach. Furthermore, Dr. Jacobson stated that Ericka denied to her that she ever had an abortion performed on her, or that she had ever been pregnant. She denied being sexually active.

My accuser pointed out Paul Ingram's conviction as proof of his guilt. In an appeal for a new trial, Ingram's new attorney argues persuasively that Ingram's confession was coerced, and there was an astonishing array of irregularities in the proceedings that led to his sentencing. Ingram was convicted on the basis of his confession alone. There was a rush to judgment in the Ingram case. The prosecutor's case was falling apart; they had no physical evidence, their witnesses were not credible, and they knew it.

Ericka Ingram said that her parents started a Satanic Cult when she was five, and thirty people in this community were members. This blood-drinking, spell-casting, baby-killing cult is made up of judges, doctors, lawyers, and "a lot of policemen." The Thurston County Sheriff's Department may come to regret their handling of the Ingram case (if they haven't already), now that their star witness has turned against them on national TV.

A couple of weeks ago, David Powers went into King County District Court and changed his name to "Absolutely Nobody." Mr. Nobody told Judge Darcy Goodman he's thinking about running for lieutenant governor in 1992. I think he's aiming too low; polls consistently show George Bush running behind an unnamed Democrat; but when you put a specific candidate up against Bush (Jerry Brown, Tom Harkin, etc.) the Democrat gets clobbered. Maybe Nobody is just the person for the job.

There is a precedent for this. In 1976, Hugh Romney (aka Wavy Gravy) announced that he was going to serve as campaign manager for Nobody's run for president. Speaking on behalf of his candidate, Romney said, "If they (skeptics) just would look at linear information, they would discover that 43% of all eligible voters in the last election voted for Nobody. So Nobody has been in office for quite some time. In fact, if they would look at the record they would discover that Nobody lowered their taxes last year, Nobody balanced the budget, Nobody stooped the war, Nobody is feeding the hungry and the destitute, and Nobody loves you when your are down and out. We thought if we made Nobody the official president, then Nobody would feed all the people and stop the war against the poor."

It's hard to argue with logic like that. Things haven't changed much since then, except now Nobody would win not merely by a plurality, but in fact would get a majority.

I must be getting old. Sometimes aspects of our consumer culture just leave me shaking my head, and muttering, "that's really weird." The board game, Mall Madness, for example. Apparently the object of the game is to get from one end of the mall to the other, buying as much as you possibly can, before you run out of time and money. Or the furor over Milli Vanilli's lip-synching, or rap's sampling. Japan is ahead of us in this regard; entertainment idol Yui Haga literally does not exist. She's a media construct built from several different elements - One woman's face, another's voice, someone else's' biography. This apparently is publicly known, and is not a cause for concern. As we enter another shiny, happy new year, I have disquieting daydreams of the future...

Dateline 1999: the popular rock group, The Mall, racks up its tenth #1 single from their latest release. You can go to the mall to buy The Mall's latest product (CD, comic book tee-shirt, condoms, etc.) or see their movie. Kids eat The Mall breakfast cereal while watching The Mall cartoon shows on TV. Then it's revealed that the touring group are actually four male models lip-syncing and playing air guitar. President Quayle immediately nominates them to the Supreme Court, to overwhelming congressional approval.

Back to the real (?) world. . .a recently published list of the world's top 100 economies revealed that 47 of them are corporations. GM is the largest; it's the 20th on the list. Its sales of 126.9 billion are larger than the Gross National Products of Denmark, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and most of the other countries on the planet.. This list came out about the time GM announced more plant closings in this country. As Michael Parenti has pointed out, they don't mention that while GM closes plants here, they are opening plants in Third World countries where labor can be exploited in near-slavery conditions. It may appear that GM shares our suffering from economic downturns, but that is really not the case. .

Perhaps this is how the New World is to be ordered; border spanning corporations, oblivious to government regulation and local control, accumulating huge financial and material resources, will have primacy over our lives. We will not have identity as citizens of countries, but as employees of corporations. Or property.

Maybe in the end it's not Big Brother (government) that we should fear most, but rather Large, Economy-size Brother (business).

(Michael Parenti can be heard every Thursday at noon on KAOS in a series of outstanding taped lectures)

Intercity Transit is seeking public comment on its proposed fare hikes. A public hearing is set at 5:45 p.m. on Jan. 8, a Wednesday, at IT administrative headquarters, 526 South Pattison St. Written comments can be sent by Jan. 7 to Intercity Transit, P. O. Box 659, Olympia, WA 98507. **Friends Against Rate increasE (FARE)** is opposing the rate increase. Contact them at 956-9123. A final decision on the new rates will be made by the Transit Authority at its Jan. 15 meeting.

AN OPEN LETTER TO STATE LEGISLATORS AND VOTERS

Land-Value Taxation

Marvin Saillard

A man named Henry George (1839-1897) wrote "AN INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSIONS AND OF INCREASE OF WANT WITH INCREASE OF WEALTH...THE REMEDY" in 1879, and he titled the book "PROGRESS AND POVERTY." Millions of copies were sold, more than any other book on economics ever printed.

In considering problems with the real estate property tax, he wrote, "Adam Smith [Classical Economist who lived from 1723-1790] speaks of incomes as 'enjoyed under the equal protection of the state'; and this is the ground upon which the equal taxation of all species of property is commonly insisted upon, that it is equally protected by the state. The basis of this idea is evidently that the enjoyment of the property is made possible by the state - that there is a value created and maintained by community, which is justly called upon to meet community expenses. Now of what values is this true? Only of the value of land. This is a value that does not arise until a community is formed, and that, unlike other values, grows with the growth of the community. It exists only as the community exists. Scatter again the largest community, and land, now so valuable,, would have no value at all. With every increase in population the value of land rises; with every decrease it falls. This is true of nothing else save of things which, like the ownership of land, are in their nature monopolies.

"The tax upon land values is, therefore, the most just and equal of all taxes. It falls only upon those who receive from society a peculiar and valuable benefit, and upon them in proportion to the benefit they receive. It is taking by the community, for the use of the community, of that value which is the creation of the community. It is the application of the common property to common uses. When all rent is taken by taxation for the needs of the community, then will the equality ordained by Nature be attained. No citizen will have an advantage over any other citizen save as given by his industry, skill, and intelligence; and each will obtain what he fairly earns. Then, but not till then, will labor get its full reward, and capital its natural return" (pages 420-421).

It is within the power of the State Legislators to take the first step toward amending the State Constitution so that land and buildings can be taxed at different tax rates. This amendment will make it possible for the community-created rental value of land to be collected as tax (public revenue). "It is the application of the community property to common uses."

The system of taxation currently in use in this State and in this Nation attempts to confiscate private property in the form of earnings of labor and capital wherever the taxing body can find the least resistance. Damage to the economy in the form of loss of jobs is ignored because the relationship between taxes and unemployment seems too indirect to be blamed on the politicians who propose the taxes. All the while taxes are slowly killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

If we were to tax the rental-value of land for our public revenue, and were to untax earned incomes from labor, capital, products, buildings and improvements, we would give everyone the incentive to use our land efficiently, and to create a demand for labor and capital. Capital represents tools, equipment, machinery as well as all consumer products in the process of production up to the time they reach the hands of the consumer and become economic wealth. Capital cannot harm labor unless it is monopolized by landowners who did not have to produce anything to accumulate it.

When the rental-value of land is collected as tax to provide the public revenue needed to finance public services and public expenditures, the landowner has no unearned income with which to purchase and monopolize capital. The only other way to accumulate capital is to produce it yourself in the form of tools and machinery, or earn economic wealth, save it and invest it in capital. Producing capital, or earning, saving and investing in capital does not give anyone a monopoly in capital. Landowners who collect the rental-value of land as unearned income are able to accumulate capital without producing anything other than a land-title. This gives them an unfair advantage in the market place and they can take advantage of labor that cannot afford to accumulate capital. Allowing labor and earned capital to produce without any tax penalty gives people the incentive to produce, and releases the greatest productive power known to man. When man knows that he is going to gain full benefit from his productive efforts, he will find ingenious ways to increase his productivity. When the community-created rental-value of land is collected by the community to pay for public services and necessary public expenditures, there will be no need for taxes on the efforts of labor and earned capital. Taxing all of the rental-value of land as public revenue in lieu of other taxes has many benefits for the community, the community government, and the community business:

1. It provides a revenue base that expands as the community grows.

2. It reimburses government expenditures for public services by collecting the increase in rental-value of land that is created by the expenditure. New roads, new water systems,, new sewer systems, new schools, and new public improvements in general, always enhance the rental-value of land in the area that is benefited.

3. It eliminates land speculation and land-price inflation because there is no net-rent-of-land-after-taxes to provide the landowner with an unearned income from the community-created rental-value of land. All of the land-rent becomes community income rather that unearned income, preventing landowners from profiting from land-values.

4. Elimination of land-price inflation creates a stable economy by doing away with the business cycle caused by the inflation of land-prices and of the price of all of the things which are produced on and from the land.

5. There is no net-rent-of-land-after-taxes for a landowner to capitalize into a selling price to provide an unearned profit. When selling a home or a business, the landowner would sell his house, or his capital, and would transfer the land-title to the new owner.

6. Land costs will not raise the cost of land development because locations (land-sites) will not have a selling price. The prospective developer will only need to buy the capital improvements at the location, and the land-title will be transferred as part of the transaction.

7. A business cannot move the land to a different location to escape paying tax on the rent-of-land. Elimination of taxes on labor and capital will provide business with enough incentive to stay at his present location.

8. The rent-of-land will remain stable and economical because no one can afford to create an artificial scarcity of valuable land by holding land out of use and off the market while waiting for higher prices of land and paying the market rental-value of land

9. Paying the market rental-value of land as taxes encourages landowners to use their land efficiently so they can earn a profitable income after paying taxes. Efficient use of land creates the maximum demand for labor and capital.

10. The efficient use of land in the community will cause businesses to compete for labor and capital, thereby forcing up wages and interest. Other tax saving will keep businesses from moving away to find cheaper labor.

11. The elimination of taxes on labor and capital immediately increases buying power and improves economic conditions.

12. By reducing prices the untaxing of labor and capital encourages production and creates more jobs. This land is our land, but we can safely allow land-title holders to retain exclusive use of all the land they can put to efficient use as long as they pay the community the market rental-value of the land for the special privilege. "Then will the equality ordained by Nature be attained."

We need no longer be dependent upon the federal government for funds. Each state using this system of land-value taxation can depend upon the industry, skill and intelligence of its well motivated citizens to maintain the rental-value of land at a level which will support the government and establish a healthy economy.

Seven Nobel Prize Winners endorse land value taxation. They are Milton Friedman, Herbert Simon, Paul Samuelson, James Tobin, James Buchanan, Franco Modigliani, and Robert Solow. The current president-elect of the American Economics Association, William Vickery, also endorses land value taxation: "It guarantees that no one dispossesses fellow citizens by obtaining a disproportionate share of what nature provides for humanity."

Marvin Saillard is a member of the Washington State Georgist Association Hamlet Hilpert, President 995 State Hwy 507 Centralia, WA 98531 206-736-3639 We are a chapter of Common Ground - USA Steven B.Cord, Director 2000 Century Plaza #238 Columbia, MD 21044 301-740-1177 We are a non-profit organization whose purpose it is to abolish poverty and slums through reforming our system of taxation by adopting land-value taxation and eliminating taxes on labor and on earned capital.

Capital cannot harm labor unless it is monopolized by landowners who did not have to produce anything to accumulate it.

Participatory Democracy: Individual participation by citizens in political decisions and policies that affect their lives.

Make your New Year's resolution now: participate in your union and protect your interests.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Jan. 21st 7 P.M.
General Administration Building

the WASHINGTON FEDERATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES AFSCME · AFL-CIO

Make your impact on the World.

Join the Washington Federation of State Employees Today!
AFSCME - Local 443 - AFL - CIO
PO Box 105 Olympia, WA 98507 Phone 357-9209
Mary Burbage, President

(Trail continued)

started collecting signatures on a petition asking the City Council to downzone the Center to "neighborhood retail" (appropriate to a residential area) and support a moratorium on further development until the downzone is implemented.

Diane presented 1500 signatures to the City Council on December 17th and Harmen went looking for allies the next day. He met with Diane, other "Friends" and representatives of the City. Harmen said the only problem with the Friends was a communication one. He said Hodges Realty is going to handle things from now on. He said Jack in the Box was a done deal.

I doubt very much the Friends of the Westside will become Harmen's allies. An Albertsons and a Jack in the Box do not make a neighborhood business Center. I don't know whether Hodges wants to associate their name with Harmen (or is it Nomen, Treco or TPA?) Before they chose to ally with Harmen rather than the neighborhood, they should talk to RH Construction or at least get their money upfront. And, I'm beginning to wonder whether the main Jack, Jack Goodall, Jr. of Foodmaker, Inc knows Harmen's track record.

As 1992 starts off, let's make a New Years' resolution. Let's save our neighborhood - our homes, streets and local businesses from Harmen, his plan, his allies and asphalt. It should be fun!

Happy New Year. See you on the Westside.

Hit List

Harmen Verbrugge
President, Treco Holdings (BC)
President, Nomen Development (BC) President, Treco Development (WA)
2350 Avondale Place
Nanoose Bay, British Colombia VOR2RO
(604) 468-9144
(604) 468-5688 (fax)

Magdalemus Verbrugge
Father of Harmen and Purchaser of Westside Center Property
LaJolla, California
(619) 483-0139

William R. Friedhoff, Jr.
Registered Agent for Treco Holdings and Treco Development; Ryan, Swanson and Cleveland (RSC)
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 464-4224
(206) 583-0359 (Fax)

Jack W. Goodall, Jr.
President, Foodmaker Inc.
9330 Balboa Avenue
San Diego, California 92112
(619) 571-2121
(619) 571-2101 (fax)

Greta Pass, Real Estate
Foodmaker, Inc.
18161 Segale Park Dr. "B"
Tukwila, Washington 98188
(206) 575-1895

Tales of the Westside

Mark Bean

I'm from the Westside. I mean I was born on the Westside in 1950 at the old St. Peters Hospital. I still live with my own family on the Westside. I'm what you'd call Westside-centric. I spent my first 22 years in the same house, same family, same neighbors, same everything. Nothing changed much. It was great. We knew everyone. And everyone knew us. But sometimes that wasn't so great. Like the time I threw a rock and broke Mr. Hood's garage window. I laughed and ran away. He knew my folks. They were neighbors. You can guess the rest.

My friends and I roamed the neighborhood in ever expanding radii. As we grew in size and social needs our block became too small. Our parents knew where we were all the time, I swear. There must have been some kind of Westside Adult-Neighborhood Intelligence Agency (WANIA). The network could find me even if I was shooting pool at the Westside Lanes. Or buying before-dinner candy at Westside Lockers or Ray's Grocery (people kept tabs there, they charged food). I often wondered what it would be like to be able to charge candy on my own tab.

Places like the Totem Grill (we called it the Scrotum), Westside Shell, Westside Tavern, Westside Eagan's, Westside Barbershop, Westside Foodlockers, Resthaven Resthome (how about "Westhaven Westhome?), Rowland Lumber, and Ray's (wonder why he never called the place "Westside Ray's"?) made up the business core of my neighborhood. This was the Westside, was it not?

Then a newcomer arrived on the scene. It came to the field where I witnessed roman candle wars during pre-Fourth of July rites by the older guys (not to be confused with the field where the circus used to set-up, where Villa Crapi is now, also where I carved my fifth grade girl friend 's initials in a tree). It was a shopping center. What the hell was a shopping center I asked my young self? At least the owner did something right immediately. He named it the Westside Shopping Center.

A shopping center was a new concept to me. I guess it was some how better to have people drive to one spot and do all their shopping in one place. I asked who was it good for? I always thought riding my bike, the going part, was the best part of going somewhere. Why wouldn't I want to keep to my old routine of hitting all the spots with my buds? But I came around. At least we knew the families that ran the stores at the shopping center. Again, sometimes that wasn't so hot, since they knew my folks (and my Grandpa Bean, he was a Westsider too, you know). However, I finally had a pool hall on the Westside at the bowling alley. No more sneaking into Pop's Pool Hall down near the current city bus transfer station on Columbia St. (now that was some place, but not officially Westside).

That Westside Shopping Center was about the biggest development in the neighborhood for quite some time. It became part of the neighborhood. Neighborhoods are like that. They absorb things. Especially since the stores were all owned by local folks. There was this family connection kind of thing. I liked it then, I still like it. I want my children to have that as they grow up. That's one reason behind reminiscing like this; it ties things together.

The new owner of the Westside Shopping Center will never be a Westsider to me . . . I get the impression he's trying to get rid of my neighbors, neighborhood, and the locals who run stores there.

Now I have to be honest. I think the Westside has about absorbed as much as it can handle. The new owner of the Westside Shopping Center will never be a Westsider to me (he lives in Canada for cryin' out loud anyway). I don't like what is happening to the center of my neighborhood. I get the impression he's trying to get rid of my neighbors, neighborhood, and the locals who run stores there. When do you draw the line? Why should everything have to get bigger, busier, and less personal (if rumors of a giant Albertsons, Homeclub, or some such "anchor-tenant" rubbish are true)? Doesn't the Westside mean anything anymore? Are these questions too rhetorical for you?

Now, I'm not trying to be a Mike Contris, Sr. here. Oh, you don't know who Mike was? Ask someone from the Westside. I'm not braying about the "good ol' days" really. I just want to keep things in perspective. That's what I recall Mike trying to do in his column, "The Crucible" in the pre-Gannett, *Daily Olympian*. We get along fine with our neighbors. The neighborhood socio-economic system (geographically: Division, Harrison and related residential areas) here works fine. The values it represents - neighbors, families, sharing space - is not reflected in the credo of expansion solely for the sake of profit. Which is what I view the prime motive of the current owner of the Westside Center. I don't think he is about sharing, neighbors and families. Is it too unreasonable to speak out in favor of those things?

Well, I like talking about the Westside as you can tell. Maybe we should talk more about what happened around here in the wild fifties, my good ol' days. Hell, maybe I can become an old geezer before my time. Anyway, see you on the Westside.

Stop Jack in the Box

Preserve Local Neighborhood

Westside Letter Writing Campaign

Friday Jan 3rd
12 - 7 pm
SPEECH 218 W Fourth

Write a Letter, Drop by and meet your neighbors

For more info call Diane 866-4944

JUST THE PRESIDENT
by Ron Austin
SO, Mr. President what do you have TO say about This BILL?
I Can Sum it up in One word.
VETO
NOT Only is it SOFT ON CRIME and Anti-God... but this Bill will also mean
BILL
QUOTAS!
THWAK!
QUOTAS
Veto Thwako Veto
Quotas
Quotas! The American People aren't ready Yet! HEEE HEEE HEEEE Quotas!
VETO THWAKA THWAKA
Sir, This Show was Suppose to CELEBRATE The Bill of Rights!
Oh...heh heh is that what this IS?
The BILL VETO VETO